

CHIANG ISSUES AN ORDER FOR SILENCE

Nanking, Dec. 27.
Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has issued a personal order directing Government officials not to disclose any military information to the press or public, informed sources told the Associated Press.

SCAFFOLDING MEN WANT WAGE RISE

Latest body of workers who have asked for pay increases are the scaffolding workmen, who are said to number about 400.

Negotiations have been going on for the past fortnight and though both sides have made concessions a stalemate has arisen over differences still outstanding.

The men have asked for a 50% increase for monthly workers and 70% increase for odd job workers, against which the employers have offered 30% and 50% respectively as the maximum.

The men, it is understood, have taken their case to the Commissioner of Labour.



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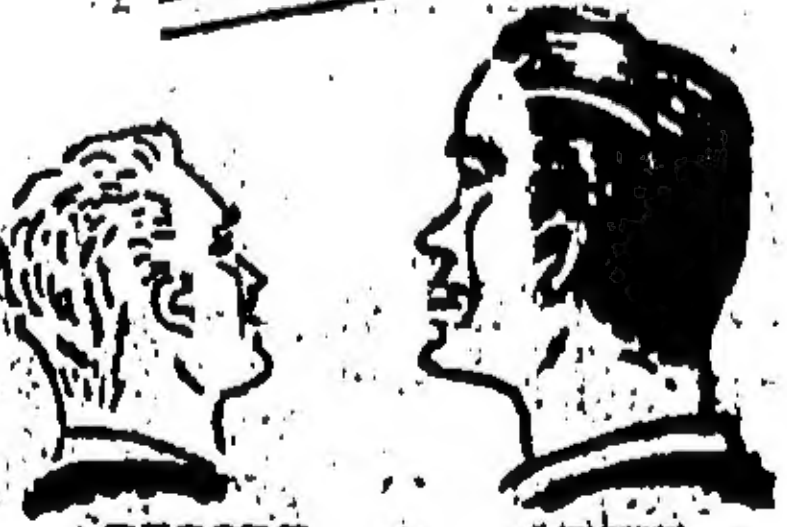


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THE MODE ELITE
22, Queen's Rd., C.

YOUR GREY hair made

BLACK again!



BEFORE AFTER
Wonderful New Discovery!
You don't want to look old with grey hair do you? You want to look young and smart with shining black hair. Then use LEX. The wonderful new discovery that makes your grey hair black again. No waiting. No long delay. It acts AT ONCE.
LEX fixes your hair in place too. It also has a beautiful perfume. And it is absolutely harmless.
Make your grey hair black and look years younger. Get a pot of LEX today.

LEX
HAIR DRESSING
MADE IN HONG KONG

Obtainable at All Stores and Dispensaries.
Sole Distributors
THE CENTURY CO.

Another Winner!



Gordon Richards, Britain's champion jockey, goes for a canter on "Sally"—a sure prize-winning circus attraction—after he had christened her with a bottle of champagne at Tom Arnold's circus at Harringay, London.—A.P.H.

Christmas Day Also Had Its Excitements

Christmas Day was marred by two serious traffic accidents, an armed robbery, two armed highway robberies, and a fatal accident in a factory.

Boxing Day, on the other hand, went off very quietly, with only minor crimes reported to the Police Stations.

As the result of a traffic accident, Mr. R.E.H. Nelson of 100 Waterloo Road, is in Hospital suffering from concussion and injuries to his leg.

Mrs. Nelson and their daughter, who were in the car at the time (about 5.30 p.m.), were treated at the Hospital but were not detained.

The car Mr. Nelson was driving collided with a military ambulance (the driver of which was charged before Mr. Blair-Kerr yesterday) near the 11-milestone at Tai Po Road.

The second accident took place at Shanghai Street when a lorry, driven by Wen Tak-che knocked down a Chinese woman inflicting serious injuries.

The driver was fined \$500 by Mr. Blair-Kerr on Boxing Day when he pleaded guilty to the charge of driving without due care and attention.

A Woman Too

Four men, a 25-year-old woman, armed with two revolvers, entered 2 Saigon Street, second floor, about 9.15 p.m. and robbed the inmates of jewellery and money to the total value of \$420.

An armed robbery, in which two rifles were used, was reported from Shek Yuen Chuk Kin Village, Takuling, about 9 p.m. on Christmas night. No further details were available.

"Low-Down"

What was described by a Police officer as "a low-down robbery" occurred at Tai Po Road, near the 2-milestone at 9.30 p.m. on Dec. 25.

Lau Koon-ling, 20, a foki employed by a quarry near the 4-milestone, went to Shamshui-po earlier in the afternoon to purchase a pair of rubber shoes. He was on his way back to the quarry when he was held up

by three men, one of whom was armed with a revolver. When the robbers found nothing on their victim they decided to take away his pair of new shoes.

Lau struggled with the man who grabbed his shoes, which he had purchased with money he had borrowed from his employer.

The robber let go of the shoes and let fly with his revolver, shooting Lau on the left hand. When the victim again resisted their attempt to carry him to the side of the road (and thrown him down into the ditch) the armed man fired another shot, hitting Lau in the stomach.

The wounded man managed to crawl to a hut about 200 yards down the road. Lau was removed to the Kowloon Hospital on the arrival of the Police. Up to a late hour last night his condition was reported as critical.

CHINA CLOSES YANGTZE RIVER PORTS

Shanghai, Dec. 27.
The Chinese Government has decided definitely for the present not to grant any foreign Government the right to send its merchant ships from foreign ports up the Yangtze River to river ports such as Hankow, according to reliable information obtained today by the United Press.

China recognizes in principle the desirability of permitting foreign cargo ships to take on and unload cargo at river ports like Hankow for and to foreign destinations, an informant said, and anticipates eventually some plan would be worked out to give Hankow and possibly some other Yangtze ports the status of open ports.

For the present, however, it is not feasible to take such action. British and other shipping lines argued that China's economy would be benefitted greatly if foreign-owned ocean freighters could load and unload at Hankow thus saving the cost of transshipments to Shanghai.

Under the present system cargo from Hankow and other river ports must be taken to Shanghai in Chinese bottoms and transferred there to foreign ships.

Equally cargo destined for Hankow and other river ports from abroad must be unloaded from foreign ships at Shanghai and reloaded on Chinese ships for Yangtze River ports.

The result of this situation has been to increase costs to such an extent that China's trade suffered and the once busy Yangtze ports have lost much of their former importance.

No Comment

Chinese informants refused to comment on the reports that the principal reason for the attitude of the Chinese Government was feared that if Yangtze River ports are opened to British and American ships they also would have to be opened to Soviet ships which might bring in propaganda material and other "undesirable" matter.

They recalled the charges repeatedly made that consignments of propaganda material and other "undesirable" matter have been brought into Shanghai in containers bearing diplomatic seals and delivered to the Soviet Consulate General—United Press.

By courtesy of Rotarian N. J. Perrin, there will be a coloured film of New York shown at the Hongkong Rotary Club's next meeting on Tuesday, 30th December, at 12.30 p.m., at the Hongkong Hotel Roof Garden.

Obituary

MRS. A. WHITE

Before a large gathering of friends and relatives the remains of the late Mrs. Alma White were laid to rest at the Protestant Cemetery yesterday.

The Rev. J.H. Ogilvie, Vicar of St. Andrew's Church, officiated at the Chapel and at the graveside.

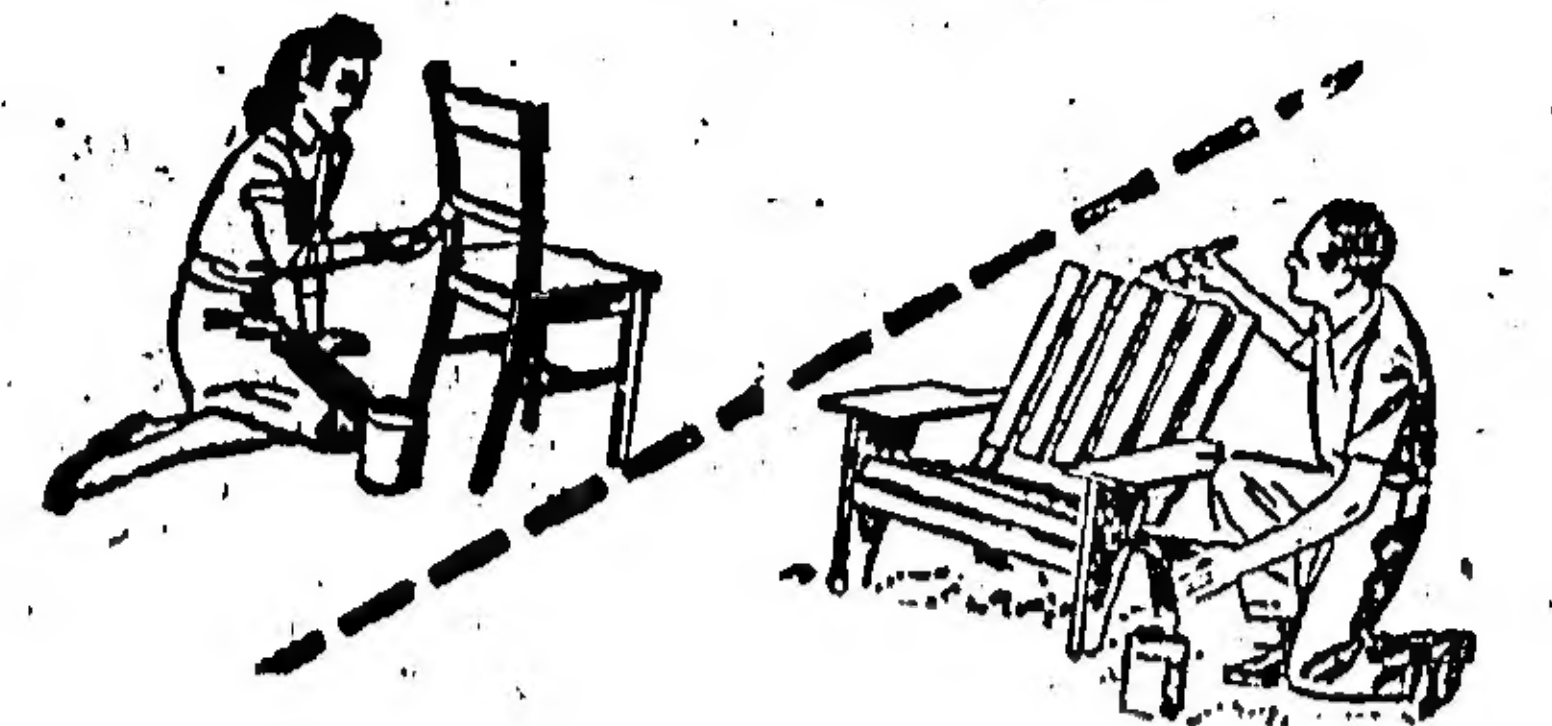
The chief mourners were Miss M.G. White (daughter), Mr. W. H. P. White (son), Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Robinson and Mrs. W. A. Penney.

Others present were F. C. Barry, Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Kew, C. T. Twigg, E. MacNider, F. V. Wong, U.M. Omar, M. Koodiaroff, Mr. & Mrs. H. Gorman, C. E. Wong, D.S. Green, Miss L.G. Abing, A.E. Dimond, Mr. & Mrs. C. Foster, Mrs. E.C. Fincher, N. A. Sefton, Ho Hong Ping, Chan Siu Lun, Lam Hon Pok, Lai Hung Chak, Fred Poon, Chan Su Ten, Robert Anderson, R. S. Capill, Mr. Appleton, R. Peaton, W. Goldenberg and many others.

Floral tributes were sent by daughter and son, Alice, Claire & Dorothy Fox, Mr. & Mrs. H. W. Abree and family, all the family in England, Sonny, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Tse, Mr. & Mrs. F. C. Barry, Harry & Phyllis, Mr. & Mrs. C.H.W. Kew and family, E. F. Tavares, Margaret and Fred, Bill & Emily Tillery, W.A. Nicolas, Capell family, Mrs. J. Knox and family, Mrs. Mrs. Wocley and family, Mr. & Mrs. A.H. Elston, Mr. & Mrs. C. Foster, Shanghai Yick Sang, O.B. Payne, Chan Lun, E.P. Schuster, Clara & Elton, Staff Hong Kong Hotel, Lee Wing Kee Staff Hong Kong Hotel, Bary, Peninsula Hotel, European Staff, Chinese staff Republic Bay Hotel, Mr. & Mrs. A.K. Dinnard, Mr. & Mrs. C.J. Twigg, Mr. & Mrs. R. Marquis, Chinese staff Peninsula Hotel, A.S. Abbott, Ho Tim, F. Poon, G. Lam, V. Olofin, Ruby Mow Fung, Moss, Berlie and family, Fong Yuk Shan, J.W. Wong, Fong Shan Yip, G. Stapleton and others.

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINTS

ALL PURPOSE ENAMEL!



ENAMELOID

Brighten up—inside and out—with sparkling NEW all-purpose Enameloid! One coat of this easy-brushing, high-gloss enamel gives gleaming new beauty to woodwork, furniture, toys, autos. Dries in a few hours... protects against wear, weather!

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Dine at --- COCK & PULL'T RESTAURANT

• QUALITY FOODS!
• FINEST DRINKS!
• BETTER SERVICE!

DINNER DANCE NIGHTLY with CHARMING MUSIC
MODERN DINING HALL—FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE
7-9 DUDDALL STREET. PHONE: 28252



In the days when the stage coach was the only means of getting from place to place, the "stages" were the journey from inn to inn. At each stop driver, postilion and passengers refreshed themselves with beer. Experience had taught them that a draught of good malt liquor was the best means of throwing off the weariness of the last stage and gaining strength for the next.

More people are drinking



THE HONGKONG BREWERY & DISTILLERY, LIMITED.

USE SHEAFFERS' Fineline LEADS



A first-class container for first class leads... streamlined for easy opening, no jamming, flexible leads with smoother, softer texture... with delivery service of your choice.

Obtainable at all leading stores.
SHEAFFERS' LEADS
(China) Ltd.
The Hongkong Building
Raffles Place

A Foki Lay Down And The Plank Broke

Wong To, 17, foki of the Lik Keong Rubber Factory, 187 Fuk Wa Street, lost death at 9.30 p.m. on Dec. 25.

He was sent by his master to the Nan Tai Rubber Factory, 75 Yau Chow Street, to inquire whether some work given to that factory had been completed. On arrival, he was told by the

factory manager that the work was not yet completed.

While waiting for the work to be completed, he was standing on a plank which was

placed across a ditch. The plank broke and he fell into the ditch.

He was taken to the hospital but died of his injuries.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

20 WORDS \$2 FOR ONE
INSERTION PREPAID. \$1
FOR EACH ADDITIONAL
INSERTION. ADDITIONAL
WORDS 10 CTS. PER WORD
PER INSERTION.

\$2

Replies are awaiting at our
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312, 345, 346, 347, 348.

POSITION VACANT

FOREIGN trading firm requires
two experienced department
managers, able to handle cor-
respondence etc. independently. Re-
ply stating experience fully and
salary required. Box 339 "Sun-
day Herald".

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HAVE YOU stopped at "Bond
Street W.L."?

DUPLICATING SERVICE. All
classes of duplicating work done
accurately and quickly. Mod-
erate charges. NIAGARA
DUPLICATING SERVICE, 3rd
floor, Chater Road, Tel. 26774.

NEW Winter Suits—Style and
workmanship guaranteed to your
satisfaction. Selected range of
English materials. Telephone
21366 for tailor to call—King's
(Ah Yau) Tailor, 4, D'Aguiar
Street, 1st floor.

FOR YOUR BREAKFAST,
Tiffin, Afternoon Tea & Dinner.
You are welcome. Prompt Ser-
vice. Airy and Quiet. Try
Cafe de Luxe, China Emporium
Mezzanine Floor Tel. 26428.

FOR SALE

RACEWEIGHT BINOCULARS:
"Zais". Large-sized "light-
admitting" eyepieces enhances
night observation, and instant
spotting. "Crystal-
clear" anti-fog lens. Like
new. New Case \$120. Phone
27087 (8-10 a.m.) (5-8 p.m.)

UNDERWOOD LATEST
MODEL. Just arrived. Lowest
price. Also Typewriters for rent.
Service guaranteed. Tel. 27532.
Universal Typewriter Co., 22
Des Voeux Road, C., 1st floor.

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Beauty Problems — your Per-
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operators (1st floor) above
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UNDERTAKERS
Granite & Marble Works
& Monumental & Masonry
Head Office:
4-6, Morrison Hill Rd.
Happy Valley, Tel. 44444

PUBLIC AUCTION

BY ORDER OF THE DIREC-
TOR OF DISPOSALS FAR
EASTERN AREA (M. O. S.)
Messrs. Lammer Brothers of
Pedder Building, Hong Kong,
have received instructions to
sell by Auction at their Sales
Rooms, Pedder Building, Base-
ment, at 10.00 a.m. on
Wednesday, the 31st, December
1947:—

A LARGE ASSORTMENT
OF VEHICLES, AERO
ENGINES AND STORES

Located at R. A. F. Disposals
Site, Matakok Road,
Kowloon

Web Equipments, Lamps
Glim, Old Tools, Rubber,
Sewing Machine and Instru-
ment, Parachute Harness,
Teletype Paper Tape, 2
Electric Welders with
Laurence Scott Generator
and Meadows Engine,
Dhurries, Tools and Spares
Ground Equipment, Electric
Equipment, Aircraft Instru-
ments and Components,
Clothing, Aircraft Wheels
and Wheel Equipment, Aero
Engine Spares, Repairable
Generator Set and Switch-
board, Feather Pillows,
Spirit Levels, Radio Valves,
Sextants Bubble, 24, Aero
Engines and 1 Jeep 5 cwt. etc.

Located at Sea Transport Office,
Wellington Barracks, Hong
Kong

1 Lorry Canadian Ford
15 cwt. with 4 additional Tyre
Covers

Located at No. 7 Store, H. M.
Naval Dockyard, Hong Kong
3 Ariel Motor Cycles

Located at Naval Stores Shed,
Taikoo Sugar Refinery, Hong
Kong

1 Ford 15 cwt. and 1 Bedford
(M.W.) 15 cwt.

Located at N. S. Main Office
Compound, H. M. Dockyard,
Hong Kong

1 Ford 15 cwt., 3 Chevrolet
15 cwt., 10 Hillman Saloon,
22 Jeep 5 cwt. and 5 Humber
U/T.

Located at China Fleet Club
Compound, Hong Kong
3 Hillman Saloon

Permits to view, Catalogues
and Special Condition of Sale
etc. may be obtained from
Messrs. Lammer Brothers.

Inspection of Vehicles, Aero
Engines and Stores at the above
locations can be made between
the hours of 9.30 a.m. and
12 noon and between 2.00 p.m.
and 4 p.m. on 29th and 30th
December 1947.

Terms: 50% of the Purchase
Money to be paid on the Fall
of the Hammer and the Balance
to be paid by 2nd, January 1948.

WALTER M. WEINBERGER,
CHAIRMAN,
BRITISH STORES DISPOSAL
BOARD,
(HONG KONG)

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every description. Letterheads,
Visiting cards, Copperplates,
Die stamping, Booklets, Balance
sheets, Envelopes and Office
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PRINTERS OF CHINESE &
ENGLISH BOOKS
PERIODICALS &
NEWSPAPERS

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HONG KONG
TELEPHONE 27808

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

A meeting of members will be
held at the office, 3rd floor
Union Building, 21 Pedder
Street, on Monday, December
29th, 1947, at 5 p.m.
GEO. T. LLOYD,
General Secretary.

LAMMERT BROS.

Auctioneers, Surveyors
and Appraisers
Pedder Building
Telephone No. 20324

PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned have received
instructions to sell by Public
Auction on:

Tuesday, the 30th Dec. 1947
commencing at 2.30 p.m.
at their Sales Rooms No. 35
Hankow Road Kowloon.

A NICE SELECTION OF
VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD
FURNITURE

comprising:—
1 Teak Dining Room Suite,
Chesterfield Suites, Divans,
Dressing Tables, Wardrobes,
Beds, Dining Tables, Sideboards,
Glass Cabinets, Chairs, Card
Tables, Hammocks, Babbles
Bath, Perambulator, Billiard
Tables, Carpets, Rugs, Odd
Tables, Portable Gramophone,
1 Underwood Typewriter, Glass
Ware, Brass Ware and Tea Sets
Etc., Etc.

On View from Monday, the 29th
December 1947.

Terms: As Customary.

LAMMERT BROS.,
Auctioneers.

ROYAL ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS.

Dry Cleaning of Military Uniforms

Tenders will shortly be invited
for the dry cleaning of Khaki
Battle Dress and Great Coats.

Firms wishing to be placed on
the list of tenderers should make
their application in writing to
C.R.A.O.C., HQ Land Forces,
Hong Kong, stating where their
actual dry-cleaning plant is
situated.

Applications must be in by
3rd January, 1948.

Only principals of firms with
modern equipment need apply.

R.H.A.P. FINNEY,
Lt. Col.
Commander, Royal Army
Ordnance Corps.

NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE
Union, Trading, Company
Limited.

IN THE MATTER OF THE
Company (Reconstruction of
Records) Ordinance, 1947.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that an application by and on
behalf of the above Company for
leave to reconstruct its register
of shareholders under the above
Ordinance has been filed with
the Registrar of Companies.
The Statutory Declaration of
Fernando Eduardo D'Almada
Remedios, a Director, in support
and exhibits thereto may be in-
spected in the office of the Re-
gistrar on payment of the pre-
scribed fee.

All persons, entitled to be
registered as shareholders are
required to notify the Company of
their full names and addresses
and the evidence on which their
claims are based before the 12th
day of March, 1948.

Dated the 12th day of Dec.,
1947.
(Signed) E. J. M. CHURN,
Secretary.

NOTICE

THE CHINA COAST
NAVIGATING AND ENGINEERS
OFFICERS' GUILD

A meeting of members will be
held at the office, 3rd floor
Union Building, 21 Pedder
Street, on Monday, December
29th, 1947, at 5 p.m.

GEO. T. LLOYD,
General Secretary.

44, D'Aguiar Street, Central,
Hongkong. Telephone 33485.

44, D'Aguiar Street, Central,
Hongkong. Telephone 33485.

44, D'Aguiar Street, Central,
Hongkong. Telephone 33485.

NOTICE

WOODCRAFT WORKS LIMITED

Reconstruction of Register of
Members.

Woodcraft Works, Limited
(hereinafter called "the Com-
pany") has applied to the Re-
gistrar of Companies for leave
to reconstruct its Register of
Members, under Section 12 of
the Companies (Reconstruction
of Records) Ordinance, 1947.

The statutory declaration in
support of the application and
the exhibits thereto being lists
of persons who it is believed are
entitled to be registered as
shareholders of the Company
can be inspected, on payment of
the prescribed fees, in the office
of the Registrar of Companies,
Courts of Justice, Hong Kong. A
copy of the statutory declaration
and the exhibits thereto may also
be inspected at the Company's
Registered Office during ordinary
working hours.

All persons who claim to be
entitled to be registered as
shareholders of the Company
must notify the Company of their
FULL NAMES and
ADDRESSES, their claim and
the evidence upon which it
is based WITHIN THREE
MONTHS from the 15th day of
December, 1947.

Persons who hold Share
Certificates and Transfer Deeds
(if any) are requested to
produce them at the Company's
Registered Office if they have
not already done so. Share-
holders who have lost their
scrip are requested to write to
the Company giving all known
particulars of their holding and
the circumstances of the loss,
when further information will be
given as to any further evidence
required.

All notices and communications
should be addressed to the
Company at its Registered
Office, 7 Queen's Road, Central,
Hong Kong.

LOWE, BINGHAM &
MATTHEWS,
Secretaries.

Hongkong, 12th, December, 1947.

NOTICE

BUILDERS AND TRADERS LIMITED

Companies (Reconstruction of
Records) Ordinance, 1947.

Reconstruction of Register of
Members.

Builders and Traders Limited
(hereinafter called "the Com-
pany") has applied to the Re-
gistrar of Companies for leave
to reconstruct its Register of
Members, under Section 12 of
the Companies (Reconstruction
of Records) Ordinance, 1947.

The statutory declaration in
support of the application and
the exhibits thereto being lists
of persons who it is believed are
entitled to be registered as
shareholders of the Company
can be inspected, on payment of
the prescribed fees, in the office
of the Registrar of Companies,
Courts of Justice, Hong Kong. A
copy of the statutory declaration
and the exhibits thereto may also
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Registered Office during ordinary
working hours.

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must notify the Company of their
FULL NAMES and
ADDRESSES, their claim and
the evidence upon which it
is based WITHIN THREE
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Persons who hold Share
Certificates and Transfer Deeds
(if any) are requested to
produce them at the Company's
Registered Office if they have
not already done so. Share-
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scrip are requested to write to
the Company giving all known
particulars of their holding and
the circumstances of the loss,
when further information will be
given as to any further evidence
required.

All notices and communications
should be addressed to the
Company at its Registered
Office, 7 Queen's Road, Central,
Hong Kong.

LOWE, BINGHAM &
MATTHEWS,
Secretaries.

Hongkong, 12th, December, 1947.

Hongkong, 12th, December, 1947.

Hongkong, 12th, December, 1947.

INTRA-CLUB CRICKET

Married Men Beat Batchelors

An intra-club cricket match at the Craigengower
Cricket Club on Boxing Day resulted in the
Married Men beating the Bachelors by 51 runs
with David Leonard scoring 32 (including
seven boundaries) for the winners.
Local Staff beat Foreign Staff by a mere four runs
in a Hong Kong Electric intra-company game
at Sookunpoo the same day, while Kowloon
Cricket Club drew with the Navy in Kowloon.

MARRIED - SINGLES

In the intra club cricket game
at Craigengower on Friday the
Married men beat the Bachelors
by 51 runs. P. Leonard was top
scorer for the Married men with
32 which included seven bound-
aries.

MARRIED

H.P. Lim, c. A.M. Omar, b.
H. Anderson, 15
G. Hong Choy, b. Billimoria
W. Hong Sling, b. Billimoria
D. Leonard, b. A.M. Omar, 32
G. Souza, run out, 24
A. Kuruneri, c. I.M. Omar, b.
A.M. Omar, 0
A.M. Omar, b. A.M. Omar, 0
C.W. Lam, c. I.M. Omar, b.
A.M. Omar, 0
Hugh Lam, not out, 3
K. Andrew, c. I.M. Omar, b.
T. Daird, b. Billimoria, 15
Extras, 10
Total, 137

BOWLING

P.J. Billimoria, 8.5 40
S. Ramchand, 8 45
A.M. Omar, 4 11
R.H. Risto, 4 11

BACHELORS

C.S. Carr, b. H.P. Lim, 4
P.J. Billimoria, b.w. H.P.
Lim, 15
A.M. Omar, b.w. I.M. Omar, 15
T. Wong, run out, 12
S. Ramchand, b.w. Kuruneri
R.R. Irane, c. D. Leonard, b.
W. Hong Sling, 12
S. Leonard, b. C. Hong Choy
I.M. Omar, b. C. Hong Choy
N. Leonard, b. C. Hong Choy
F. Woodier, not out, 0
J.R. Stanley, c. H.P. Lim, 0
b. C. Hong Choy, 0
Total, 86

BOWLING

U.M. Omar, 8 25
H.P. Lim, 8 22
W. Hong Sling, 2 13
G. Hong Choy, 3 19
A. Kuruneri, 1.1 0 7 1

K.C.C. - NAVY

In a friendly match at Cox's
Path on Boxing Day, Kowloon
Cricket Club drew with the
Navy.
N. Hart-Baker was the top
scorer with 59. R.E. Lee and
Sterns each took six wickets for
40 runs.

K.C.C.

E.C. Fincher, b.w. Heggie
S.A.F. White, c. Cole, b.
Sterns, 1
K. Lo, b. Sterns, 4
N. Hart-Baker, c. Gething, b.
White, 59
Gething, c. Shaw, b.
Heggie, 29
C.I. Stapleton, b. Sterns, 13
W.H. Colledge, c. Catto, b.
Heggie, 1
P. Smith, c. Brown, b.
Sterns, 2
J. Cokayne, b. Sterns, 2
A. Zimmern, c. Gething, b.
White, 35
F.R. Zimmern, c. & b.
Sterns, 0
R.E. Lee, not out, 5
Extras, 2
Total, 181

BOWLING

Gething, 7 1 43
Sterns, 10 3 40
Heggie, 11 4 38
White, 9.2 2 36

NAVY

Heggie, b. R.E. Lee, 21
R. Cole, c. & b. R.E. Lee, 19
R.G. Shaw, c. Fincher, b. R.E.
Lee, 3
H.J. Startin, b. R.E. Lee, 0
I. Stoop, c. A. Zimmern, b.
R.E. Lee, 1
L. White, b. F. Zimmern, 1
T. Catto, c. A. Zimmern, b.
Hart-Baker, 14
I.W.V. Browne, not out, 17
Sterns, c. Smith, b. R.E. Lee, 12
Shawyer, not out, 2
Extras, 17
Total, 128

BOWLING

F.R. Zimmern, 12 2 45
R.E. Lee, 14 2 40
Hart-Baker, 3 2 4 1

AT SOOKUNPOO

In an intra-company friendly
cricket game at Sookunpoo on
Friday the Local staff of the
Hong Kong Electric Co. beat the
Foreign staff by four runs.

TAY KEE & CO.

STEVEDORES, TRANSPORTERS, &
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Also Agents for all kinds of
goods and services with reliable
and prompt delivery.

44, D'Aguiar Street, Central,
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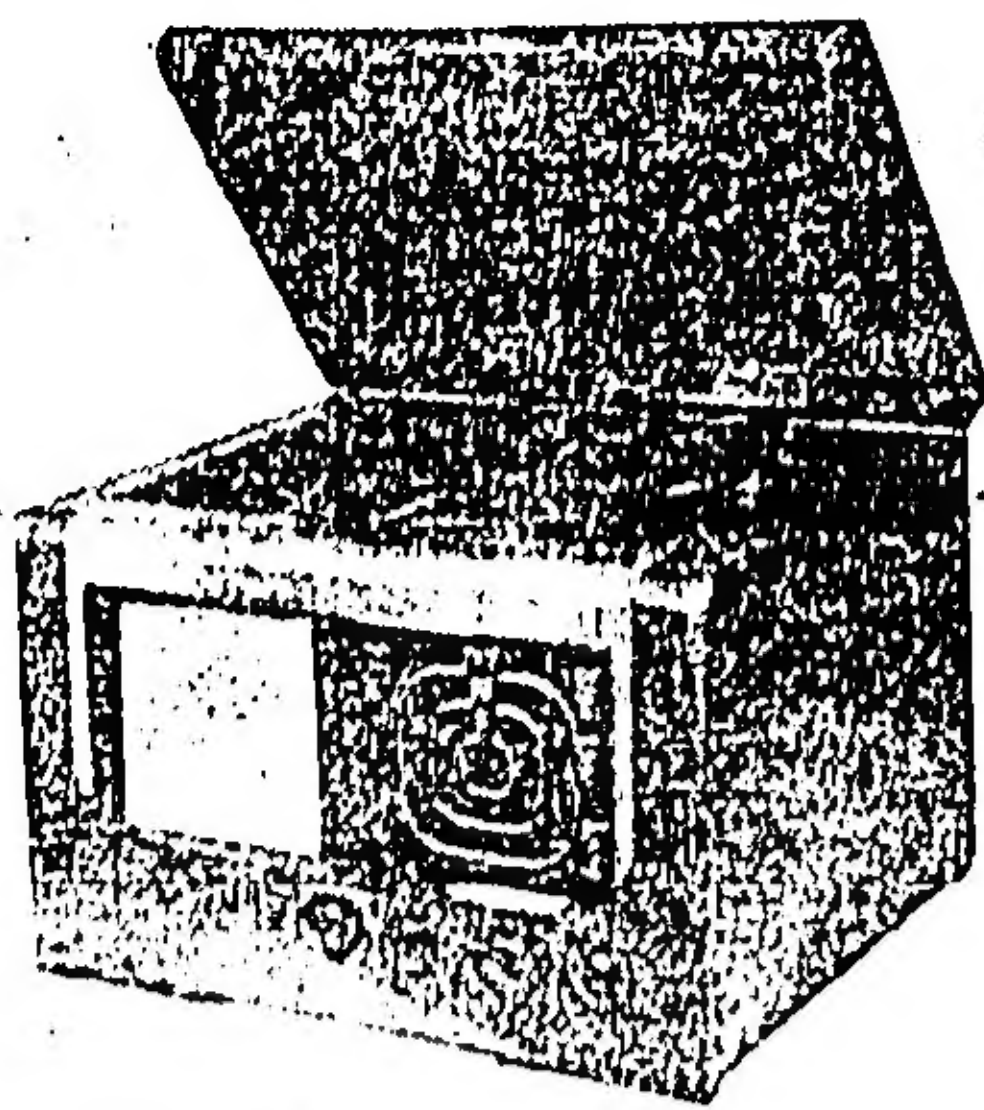
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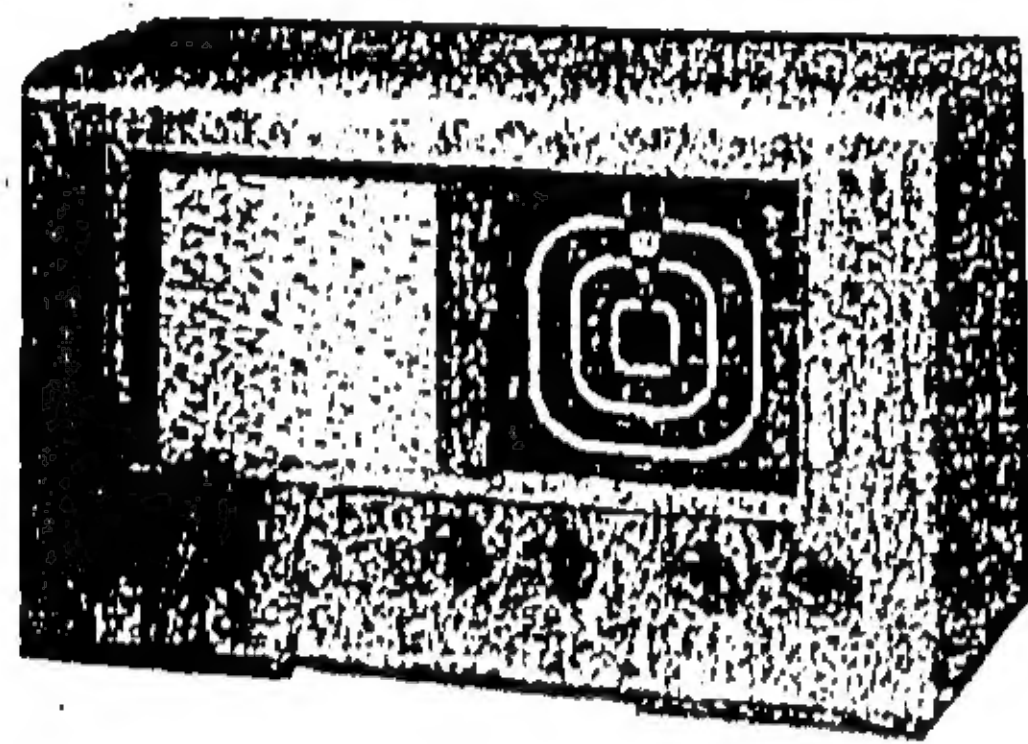
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APB 1 B

ABOUT THIS AND THAT

The Other Side

By ARTHUR GEE

A couple of weeks back, an "Improbable Case" was started on this page. This was based on the ex gratia payments of \$10,000 each by the Hongkong Government to (a) an unlicensed hawk, whose death it was subsequently found had not been caused by the Police, and (b) a mysterious person, alleged to have been killed although his body was never produced, nor was any proof brought forward to show that a servant of the Crown had, in fact, caused his death.

There is, however, another side to this picture of a philanthropic Government. For instance, it has not been so liberal with public funds in the case of a Chinese who was a British spy here during the Japanese Occupation. It was not nearly so generous in the case of a British Police Officer who took a leading part in a gun duel with armed robbers.

Both these men were murdered. They were killed, not accidentally, but deliberately, by the enemies of law and order, of justice and of the sanctity of human life. Both deliberately faced danger in the line of duty. It requires no courage to be the victim of an accident. Men have won the VC and GC for risking their lives when their sense of discipline and duty overcame the weakness of the knees and dryness of the throat that is the natural reaction to the threat of death.

ESPIONAGE

Who were the men whose deaths, meeting last week, of the most valuable members of its community? The first of these was a man named Lam. Before the War, Lam worked for the Hongkong, Canton & Macao Steamship Company. He drew what was a respectable salary for those days—\$250 a month. Apart from the fact that he was a dispatch rider in the Hongkong Police Reserve, there was little to make Lam stand out above his fellows. Had it not been for the war, it is possible most of us would never have heard of him.

At the same time, although Lam was just an ordinary sort of fellow, he was not like many of those who have come here from the North since the war. He was not the man to get rich quick at the expense of his fellows. Nor was he a collaborator. When the Japanese took Hongkong, Lam was loyal. He joined the British Army Aid Group, as in espionage agent working in this Colony. He was caught by the Japanese and murdered.

His widow received \$8,000. That is, \$2,000 less than the Hongkong Government was willing to pay out for a peasant vendor of no particular account and for another man who did not bear an excellent reputation. Lam's widow invested the money in a mortgage, and received \$80 a month interest. On April 1, 1947, 10 per cent of this was deducted by the mortgagee since the money was payable to Government. For the past four months, Mrs Lam has been receiving \$80 a month from the War Memorial Fund for herself and her young son.

POLICEMAN

Detective Sub-Inspector Alan Farquhar joined the Hongkong Police in 1932, and was first attached to West Point. He was one of the most popular officers of the force and a keen sportsman. He was interned at Stanley during the Japanese occupation and his excellent spirit during that trying period earned him the respect and admiration of everyone.

Following a brief rehabilitation leave, he returned to Hongkong and was attached to the Criminal Investigation Department, Yau-mat. He took a very active part in helping to break up the "bad elements" which then infested that area. On June 1st, 1946, he took part in an emergency turn-out when a telephone call reported that armed robbers had just entered the second floor of a building in Nathan Road.

Farquhar led a police party up the stairs. The robbers opened fire, fatally wounding Farquhar. Before he fell, however, the Police Officer himself killed one of the robbers in the room. He was rushed to the Kowloon Hospital, but died shortly after admission. He left a widow and a child.

Mrs Farquhar was given about \$4,800. This was the equivalent of one year of her husband's salary, and was computed on the

thing plain sailing, fairly organized, and no mattering or "I told you so".

But now the picture changes. The fact has gone forth: Women who were evacuated compulsorily to Australia are not entitled to start again from scratch—i.e. the date of their return to Hongkong after the Liberation. This rule, however, does not apply to those teachers who chortled in 1940 because they had been able to claim exemption from evacuation and who were caught here a year later. *Illic illic lacrimae*, or, as one of the aggrieved ones puts it, they get it coming and going.

Contribution

The Editor has been voicing the sentiments of all of us with his comments on the Government decision to stop the official dollar-



NEARLY BACK IN THE BOTTLE!

basis of one month's wages for each year he had served in the Police. She is now receiving a pension of £2,10s.0d. a week—roughly \$160 a month.

The moral of all this would appear to be:—If you are going to be killed, be sure first that you are neither a Government servant nor that you are risking your life in the service of the community.

Teachers

While we are on the subject of The Other Side of the Picture, Secret Operative 56 ("Fellow This Man") reports that there is a lot of bad feeling at the moment in the ranks of the female teachers employed by Government. They are a bit wary of the Press, lest they get spunked, but the "gen" is reliably reported to be on the following lines:—

As you know, back in 1940 all women in Hongkong who were not in the ARP, ANS, etc. and who otherwise could not wangle some sort of "Official Exemption" were compulsorily evacuated to Australia. There was no choice in the matter. They were not permitted to elect for either Australia or Hongkong. Government servants had even less opportunity for finding a loophole. Indeed, one of the officers responsible for seeing the Colony partly denuded of females went on record as saying that women who refused would be "carried on board, kicking and screaming, if necessary."

Among these evacuees were a number of women teachers. When the war ended, they returned to the Colony—most of them, had been on war-work during the period 1941-45—and carried on here while those who had not been evacuated and who spent the Occupation Period in Stanley went on some deserved Rehabilitation Leave. Every-

thing plain sailing, fairly organized, and no mattering or "I told you so".

Government keeps on talking about "its" contribution to the War Memorial Fund as from the end of this month. I would like to raise a small protest over another point.

Government keeps on talking about "its" contribution to the War Memorial Fund as from the end of this month. I would like to raise a small protest over another point.

It's Wrong

One thing seems to lead to another in this column this week. Writing the couple of paragraphs above about the "Government" contribution to the fund set me to thinking about other misnomers used in every day speech—some through ignorance and some from a simple confusion of ideas.

Take cockroaches, for instance (I wish someone would: I don't want them). As any self-respecting hen will confirm, they have nothing to do with cocks, while a roach, my fishing-friends tell me, is a small freshwater fish allied to the carp. In some

parts of the world, the cockroach is called a black-bottle. It isn't black, nor is it a beetle.

The blind-worm isn't blind—it has tiny eyes—nor is its other name, *slow-worm*, correct. It isn't particularly slow: the original name was *slay-worm*, from the old belief that this perfectly harmless critter was venomous.

Gazing at these notes in rough form, I was reminded that Indian ink actually comes from China; that rice paper is not made from rice but from the pith of a Formosan plant which would no doubt be surprised to learn that we call it "Aralla papyrifera"; and that silver paper isn't made from silver but is generally tin-foil.

This sort of thing can go for ages. Galvanized iron isn't galvanized; it's merely zinc-coated. Honey-suckle is not a favourite with bees, because it is quite useless so far as they are concerned. Whale-bone isn't a bone and doesn't possess any of its properties; it comes from a substance in the upper jaw of the whale which strains the water that that hefty mammal sucks up by the gillnet. The four elements—fire, air, earth and water—aren't elements at all.

Christmas brings thoughts of turkeys, and thoughts of turkeys remind me that they don't come from Turkey, but from North America; that Turkey Rhubarb doesn't grow in Turkey but in Russia; and that Turkish baths are not of Turkish origin. And so on, far into the night. It's a wonder to me that any of us ever really understand what anyone else is talking about, half the time.

Quote

"The dignity and freedom of the Press are 'trammelled from the moment it accepts an ancillary position. To perform its duties with entire independence and consequently with the utmost public advantage, the Press can enter into no close or binding alliances with the statesmen of the day, nor can it surrender its permanent interests to the convenience of the ephemeral power of any Government."

"The first duty of the Press is to obtain the earliest and most correct intelligence of the events of the time, and instantly, by disclosing them, to make them the common property of the nation. The statesman collects his information secretly and by secret means he keeps back even the current intelligence of the day with ludicrous precautions, until diplomacy is beaten in the race with publicity."

"The Press lives by disclosure; whatever passes into its keeping becomes a part of the knowledge and the history of our times: it is daily and for ever appealing to the enlightened force of public opinion—anticipating, if possible, the march of events—standing upon the breach between the present and the future and extending its survey to the horizon of the world."

"The duty of the journalist is the same as that of the historian—to seek out the truth, above all things, and to present to his readers, not such things as statecraft would wish them to know but the truth as near as he can attain it."—From leading articles in "The Times," Feb. 6 and 7, 1852.

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TUES. " 30— " 10 a.m. " 6 p.m.
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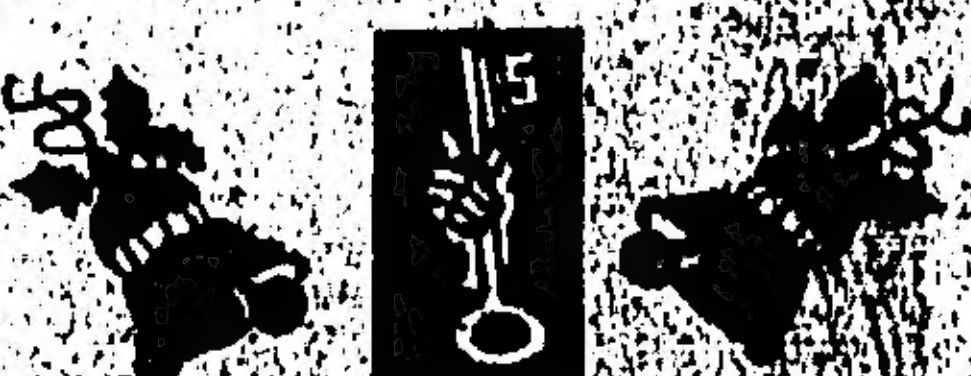
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MALAYA FALL 'INEVITABLE'

Details Of General Percival's Report

"Weather Man's" Mistake

London, Dec. 27. After 18 months of agitation for publication of the report of General A. E. Percival, former British Commander in Singapore, on the fall of the island in 1942, a London newspaper today published details of the despatches claiming that the surrender of the British forces was inevitable.

The newspaper, the Daily Express, stated that General Percival's despatches, expected to give details of what the former Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, once described as the "the greatest-ever disaster to British arms," were now to be published.

"SLOGGER" WANTS A REST

London, Dec. 27. Britain's champion coal-getter, Bill "Slogger" Williams, who dug 234 tons in six shifts at the deep navigation pit at Treborth, Glamorgan, will not accept a challenge to a coal-digging competition issued by Joe Knight, an overman at the Haight pit, Barnsley.

Knight's challenge was backed for £1,000 by Mr. Harry Hobson of Griggleson, near Wakefield, but "Slogger" said: "Last week's effort was too much of a good thing and all I require now is a good rest."—Reuter.

Arms Ship Loading Cancelled

Vancouver, Dec. 27.

The loading of a Canadian arms cargo of 650 tons of machine-gun bullets and 35 tons of aircraft material for the Chinese Nationalist forces was cancelled by the Canadian Government today.

The decision follows considerable protests in Canada alleging that the Canadian Government was taking sides in the Communist-Nationalist civil war, but no official reason for the cancellation was given.

The arms were being loaded here on the 1,030-ton ship Colman as part of a \$10,700,000 transaction in which Canada is supplying 170 Canadian-built Mackay bombers to China under a big mutual aid agreement signed this year.

The ship had been picketed by trade unionists who petitioned the World Federation of Trade Unions to impose an international embargo on arms shipments to the Nationalists.

This general publicity has caused official fears for the safety of the ship and crew from Chinese Communist attacks when they arrived in China. The vessel's charter to carry the cargo was cancelled, and the cargo may be transferred to a United States ship for dispatch.—Reuter.

CANNIBALISM

Manila, Dec. 27. It is reliably learned that 18 Japanese stragglers captured recently by a MP patrol in the wilderness of Bukidnon in Mindanao may be charged with cannibalism.

The group, under the command of Col. Emilio Suzuki, is reported to have eaten 40 civilians in Bukidnon.—United Press.



The War Office, however, refusing to comment on the accuracy of the report, said that the decision not to publish the despatches before early in February still stood.

The Secretary for War, Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, announced recently in the House of Commons that the despatches on the early stages of the war in the Far East would begin publication about the middle of January and that the Singapore section would be reached at the end of the month or the beginning of February.

Inevitable

General Percival's despatches have been in the hands of the War Office since April, 1946, and the General himself has urged that they should be published.

The Daily Express reported that the despatches showed that the surrender of the island fortress was inevitable because "the weather man went wrong" stating that there could be no attack between Dec. 1, 1941, and the following March during the monsoon. The attack on Malaya began on Dec. 8.

"The Cabinet refused to allow forward troops to advance into neutral Siam to hold key positions. This decision was later revoked. It was too late. The Japanese got there first."

No Room

Regarding the latter part of the campaign, General Percival, the Daily Express reported, said that the British-Australian force in Malaya had no tanks, no central reserve of troops and only 150 obsolete planes, while the loss of the warships Prince of Wales and Repulse gave the enemy control of the sea.

"Our fighting troops were fatigued after 70 days of continuous action in a 600-mile retreat. Reinforcements did not arrive in time."

"The enemy attack, with two divisions and a third in support, was bigger than expected. The defenders had no room to manoeuvre."—Reuter.

Britain Prepares For Bitter Cold

London, Dec. 27. Preparations based on experience gained last winter have been made by transport services in London to keep buses running if Arctic conditions should develop in the coming weeks.

Seven thousand five hundred radiator covers and radiator blinds, doubling existing stocks, have been purchased.

Six thousand gallons of anti-freeze liquid have been secured so that it can be used on a large scale in bus radiators for the first time.

Supplies of glycerine have been sent to all garages to smear on windscreen wiper blades and other exposed parts to prevent them from freezing up, and stocks of anti-rust cream.

have been provided for buses and coaches in snowy areas.

Thirty thousand gallons of specially light winter grade oil are to be used in the experiment to see if it aids coal-weather running of vehicles.

Pipes that are especially vulnerable in extreme cold, have been protected by the use of 31 miles of asbestos lagging. Emergency alternative routes bypassing hills which last winter became impassable have been worked out.—Reuter.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT



Sasha seems to have a big drop in front of him in a back somersault over Tamara on the Tappeline during rehearsals for Bertram Mills Circus Olympia, London in readiness for the Christmas opening. (A Photo).

Chinese Reds And 'Third World War'

Shanghai, Dec. 27.

The "Shun Pao," one of the "Big Three" Chinese dailies here, carried a report from Talyuan, capital of Shansi Province, yesterday regarding possible Chinese Communist and Soviet cooperation in the event of a third world war.

A Communist liaison (district) councillor, who had surrendered to the Nationalists, is alleged in the report to have confessed that, in a political report presented to a military and political conference of leaders of the Communist Shansi-Hopei-Chahar border region, held in North Shansi—attended by some 3,000 delegates, including Mr. Tung Pi-wu, former Communist liaison officer in Nanking and a member of the Chinese Communist Central Committee—it was stated:

"The democratic revolution is now nearing a climax. The only help the Chinese Communists can rely on is the Soviet Red Army. It is estimated that the Soviet Army can send a force of between 500,000 to 1,000,000 men to help the Chinese Communists."

World War III

"Manchuria is likely to be the starting point of the third world war. In that event, the Soviet Army will conceal themselves in a joint democratic army in Manchuria to start an offensive against the Americans."

"In the meantime, Mongolian and Sinkiang troops will invade North China and North-west China."

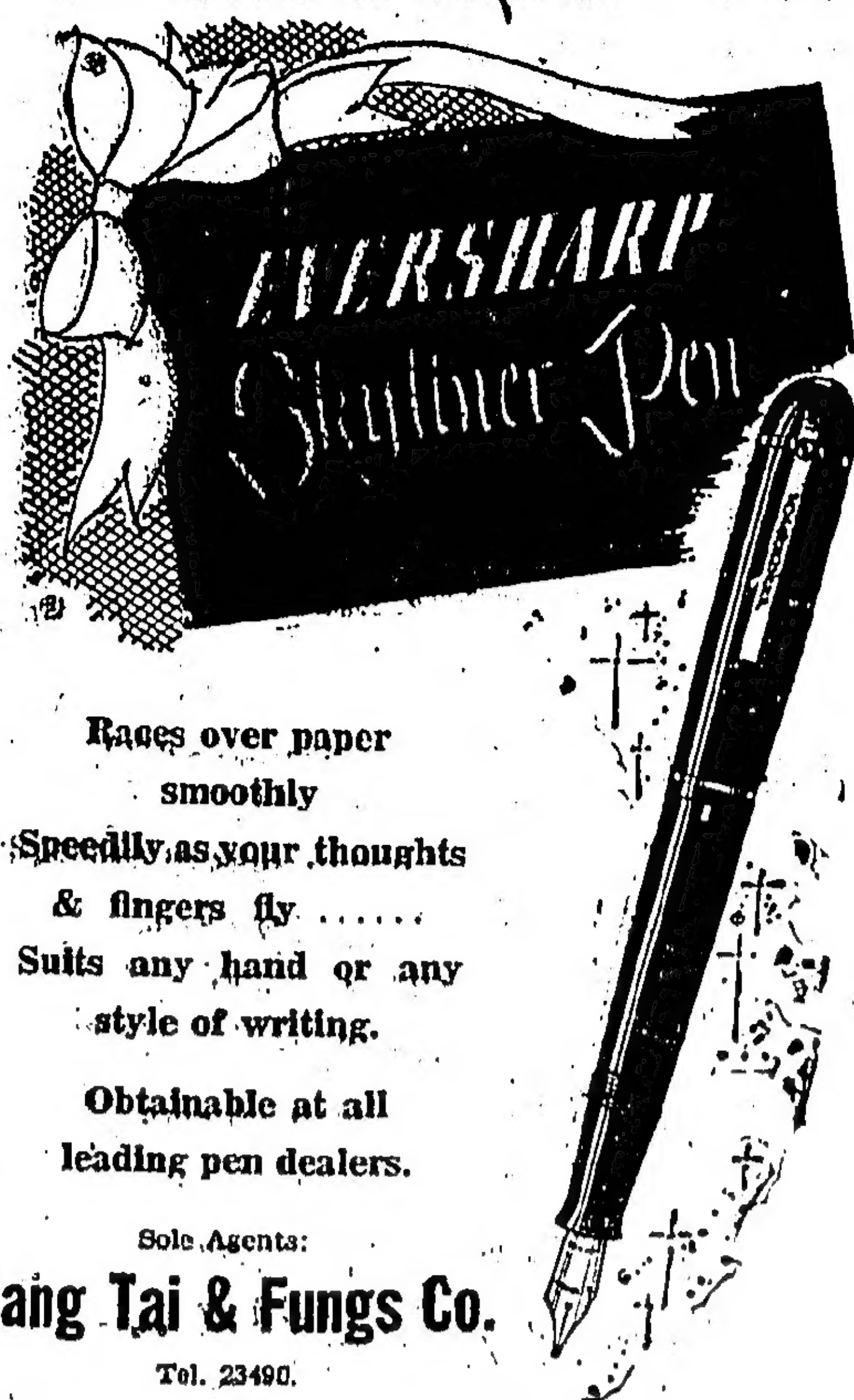
"The Communist forces in Central China will immediately try to control the region north of the Yangtze River and carry out a scorched-earth policy in the region south of the Yangtze River with a view to checking any American landing attempt."—Reuter.

POLISH TRIAL

London, Dec. 27.

The trial of eight members of a Polish secret organisation was opened to-day before the regional military tribunal at Warsaw east of Cracow, the Warsaw radio reported.

The Poles are accused of "economic sabotage" and underground activity in a Polish oil well area aimed at paralyzing the oil industry.—Reuter.



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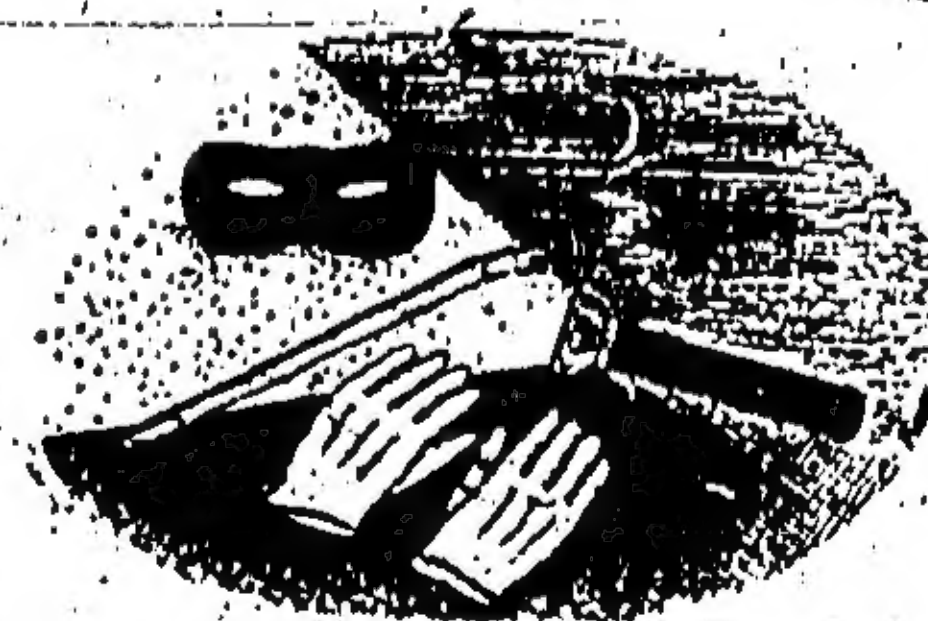


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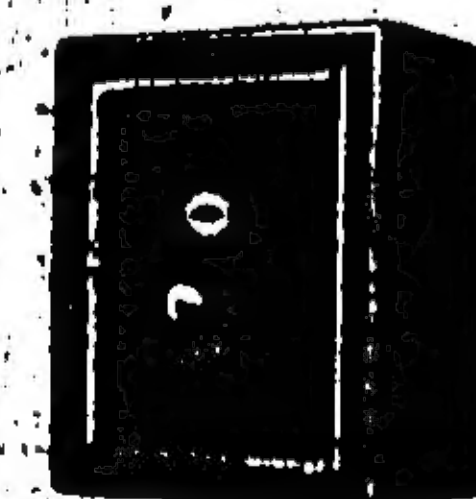


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MAINLY ABOUT PEOPLE

By Margaret Bradbury

THE MATTI'S

Mr. A.F.G. Matti, formerly manager of the Peninsula Hotel, who, together with his wife and three sons, is among those listed as missing in the sinking of the "Kina" had already postponed his trip from Hong Kong to Switzerland three times. Mr. Matti, who was leaving the Colony on retirement, chose to travel on the "Kina" because she was making a long journey from China a long holiday before reaching Europe. Mr. Matti began his career in the Far East in 1924 when he joined the Hong Kong Shanghai Hotel Company. Arriving from Switzerland he was appointed manager of the Hotel Peninsula in 1937 when he came to Hong Kong as manager of the Peninsula Hotel. In January, 1939, he left for Shanghai where he managed the Company's Palace Hotel for over a year when he again resumed the management of the Peninsula Hotel.

The elder of his sons, Denis, was apprenticed as an electrical engineer at the China Light and Power Company in Hong Kong. Mr. Matti's father is a well known figure in military and hotel circles in Switzerland and for many years was editor of the internationally known publication "Hotel Review". Mr. Matti's many friends in the hotel business in Hong Kong were yesterday making every effort to obtain further news about him and his family by radio telephone connecting the Colony with Manila, but were unsuccessful.

CARTOONS AGAIN

Old acquaintances will learn with pleasure that Stan Hill is to resume his weekly cartoons for the "Sunday Herald" starting next Sunday. Over a number of years Stan Hill built up for himself a very high reputation and some of his cartoons, notably those dealing with the evacuation of wives and families in the mid-summer of 1940, were classics of their kind. Mr. Hill has been exceedingly busy since the Liberation, and particularly recently while acting as Secretary on behalf of the Government to Sir Patrick Abercrombie, the Town Planning expert. More recently, however, his fingers have begun to itch again and I have no doubt that the old touch will be there.

CHRISTMAS AT THE MISSION

The Christmas dinner which was held at the Mission to Seamen on Christmas evening was a great success, according to all accounts. Altogether 77 sat down to dinner, among them members of the British Mer-

chant Navy, Dutch Merchant Service, one seaman from Trieste and one from Jugia Slavia, plus members of the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines. The following letter which we received from a Chief Engineer expresses the feelings of those who were present. "Every credit is due to the organizers of the Mission to Seamen's Christmas evening, and all who helped in making it such a happy event. It was indeed a home from home. The Royal Toast was given by the Chaplain, the Rev. F.W. Weaver, who in a few well chosen words made us feel quite at home. Among the guests was Mr. D.F. Allen, of the Ministry of Transport, who read a message from the Ministry and the Colonial Secretary. Mrs. Weaver received thunderous applause from all present after being prevailed upon to give the usual words of wisdom we have come to expect from her."

Captain Allen of M.V. "Newcomb" was in his usual entertaining spirit and added much to the enjoyment of the evening.

LABOUR ADVISER IN H.K.

Mr. E.W. Barthrop, Labour Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies who arrived in Hong Kong on Christmas Eve, is a Yorkshireman with a sound knowledge of Government administration with regard to employment and industry. He entered the civil service as Second Division Clerk in 1912 and in 1920 became Assistant Principal of the Ministry of Labour. Eight years later he was promoted to first officer. Later posts included Chief Instructions officer, Regional Controller of Birmingham in 1939, and Regional Controller of Leeds since 1942.

In the first World War, Mr. Barthrop served with the Civil Ser-

vice Rifles and the 9th Battalion Essex Regiment where he obtained a D.S.O. and a mention in despatches. In 1934 he was awarded the OBE for services rendered to Government. Mr. Barthrop will remain here until about January 5th when he will return to Malaya before beginning his journey back to England. He recently attended the International Labour Conference at New Delhi and took the opportunity of visiting various colonies in the East before returning to the U.K.

TIDBITS

From America comes the news that Tim Fortescue, who resigned from the Hong Kong Government this year to become a permanent member of the U.N.O. staff in Lake Success, has just become a father for the second time. Mrs. Margery Fortescue has just given birth to a daughter (named Diana) in Washington.

Coming to join her husband in Hong Kong is Mrs. C.C. Stark who will arrive in Hong Kong today in the "Lancashire" from England. Mr. Stark who has retired, was previously manager of the Standard Vacuum Oil Company.

Mr. Ira H. Morse, owner of the Morse Museum at Warren, 110 miles north of Boston, Massachusetts, is visiting Hong Kong accompanied by Mrs. Morse. They are staying in the Gloucester Hotel. Object of the trip is to combine a holiday with business and obtain a number of antiques for show in America.

Doctor and Mrs. T.V. Soong who arrived in Hong Kong on Christmas Eve will return to Canton after

spending the week of festivities in the Colony. I understand that among Dr. Soong's distributed Christmas presents was a set of Swatow silver presented to Sir Alexander Grantham.

Miss Scott Moncrieff, head of the Hong Kong Social Welfare Department, who supervised the ZBW Christmas carol singing programme was formerly a BBC broadcaster, and has taken part in a number of similar programmes relayed from London.

Mr. B.E. Foster Hall of the Shanghai Customs office, who is well known in Hong Kong passed through the Colony this week together with Mrs. Foster Hall. They left on Christmas Day for Singapore in the "Van Heutz" where they will connect with the new Dutch liner the "Willem Ruys" which is leaving on her maiden voyage to Southampton and Holland.

Mr. Dave Harvey, who has been entertaining at the Gripps over Christmas week will return to Manila in the next few days. Mr. Harvey, who together with his wife was well known in Hong Kong before the war, has now opened his own advertising business in Manila called "Personal Service". This is his first appearance in Hong Kong for ten years. During the war he was interned in Manila where other prisoners report he did a very good job of work.

Mr. E. Lewis, BOAC official in Hong Kong, is leaving for Japan on Tuesday in connection with the proposed BOAC extension of the flying boat service. Mr. Lewis will visit Iwakuni and Tokyo before returning to the Colony.

PATRICK CAMPBELL'S PIECE

"Well," said the man, "look at Rover. Good dog. Been at the rat poison again?"

I was floating my tongue on the surface of a pint of milk.

"If Rover doesn't leave the rat poison food alone," said the man complacently, "Rover's going to finish up in the bonnyard."

I thought I might be able to speak. "You shug up," I said. "I've been eating curries."

"So," said the man—you have, have you? Whatever it is."

"Curry," I said carefully—"I've been eating curries with a lot of Indians." It sounded like sand-

paper being rasped against a file. "I was just talking quietly to a bankruptcy investigator in Chan-

cery-lane when suddenly we were surrounded by a posse of Indians and their womenfolk."

"A posse of Indians and their womenfolk?" said the man. "A somewhat insular approach."

"I can't help it," I said. "I'm not used to them. Where I come from—Coolenoola, Co. Clare—we never see anyone in a turban."

"Why not take a single ticket to Coolenoola?" said the man.

"But they were charming," I put in quickly. "Mr. and Mrs. Patooti Singh, Mr. Sushilgramam and Mr. Soupadoudji. They were law students, and knew all about economics."

"You must have got the names wrong," said the man. "Soupadoudji?"

"Phonetic spelling," I said. "Listen, what's all this about the untouchables? I didn't know what to do when I was introduced to

Mrs. Patooti Singh. She was absolutely lovely, with a red spot on her forehead, and wearing a pale-blue sari with gold embroidery. I didn't like to try to shake hands with her because I thought she might think I was untouchable."

"You've got the sari right, anyhow," said the man.

"I learnt that bit from the pictures," I told him. "Maria Montez in 'The Mad Maharajah'."

Well, anyway, after some chat about Anson on contracts and the Probate and Admiralty Division, we all went off to lunch. It was an Indian restaurant, and we were greeted at the door by a major-domo wearing a fur hat and a long black coat. He put the palms of his hands together and bowed three times. The others bowed back, but I thought this was probably out of bounds for me so I just said, 'Hello!'

"An impressive moment," said the man.

"We went into the restaurant," I went on—"it was decorated with unusual views of Pondicherry—and Mr. Sushilgramam did the offering. I said I'd just have a bite of anything they were having themselves. The waiter came back in the end with a huge load of dishes, which we put on the table, and held in our hands, and balanced on top of the water-jug. We helped ourselves to pieces of lamb in a rich mahogany sauce; bright yellow lentils; curried potato; a bowl of spinach and tomatoes; some small brown things like fish-cakes; lime pickle, onion pickle; mango chutney; a leg or so of curried chicken; and a big

bowl of gravy. I poured a lot of gravy over my food. I like my lunch sloppy."

The man closed his eyes.

"I thought we were ready to begin," I continued, "when the waiter came back with a barrowfull of chapatis. You know, things like soft cardboard the size and shape of plates. They're made of flour. Well, I was just about to lash in when I saw Mrs. Patooti Singh reach out, tear off a piece of chapati, roll it round a lump of lamb, splash about a bit in the other things, and then, holding back her sari with the free hand, convey the whole lot to her delicately chiselled lips. I put down my cutlery. I suddenly thought it might be unclean to touch the curry with a knife and fork."

"How did Maria Montez manage in 'The Mad Maharajah'?" said the man. "That might have given you a line."

"She didn't even have time for a sandwich," I told him. "The Mad Maharajah was after her the whole way through. I decided I'd try the chapati myself. I tore off a yard or two, wedged it between finger and thumb, and after a couple of sips, imprisoned a mouthful of spinach. I drove it home, and the next moment the top of my head came off."

"You'd driven it too far?" suggested the man.

"It wasn't that," I said. "It was the heat. It didn't seem to be spinach at all—more like something snatched out of the heart of a bonfire. I swallowed it somehow, but I was cautioned right down to the bolt. I took a lot more of the gravy, trying to dilute it, drank a jug of water, and began again. But I could hardly see what I was doing. The sweat was running into my eyes. I couldn't tell what was coming up next on the conveyor—burning vegetation, live coals, or just straight molten lead. I smiled once or twice at Mrs. Patooti Singh, and steam came out of my mouth."

"How were they taking it?" asked the man.

"They never turned a hair," I said. "They were eating away and talking about tortis. I began to think they must be lined with Persian carpets. Of course, I couldn't have been expected to know what was the matter."

"Something, then, was the matter," said the man.

"It certainly was," I replied. "I'd just extinguished myself again for the fourth time with another jug of water when Mr. Sushilgramam leant across and said, 'I see you like your curry hot.' I nodded. Two jets of steam came out of my nostrils. 'You certainly helped yourself to the hot sauce,' said Mr. Soupadoudji. 'What hot sauce?' I asked him. Mr. Soupadoudji pointed to the bowl of gravy."

After a moment the man said, 'It was your own fault. You shouldn't get out of your depth.' I looked at him angrily. 'Non-sense,' I said—they were eating the same thing. At home in Coolenoola, when we're having a company, we always take the trouble to point out to the guests which is the fruit-soup and which is the methylated spirit."



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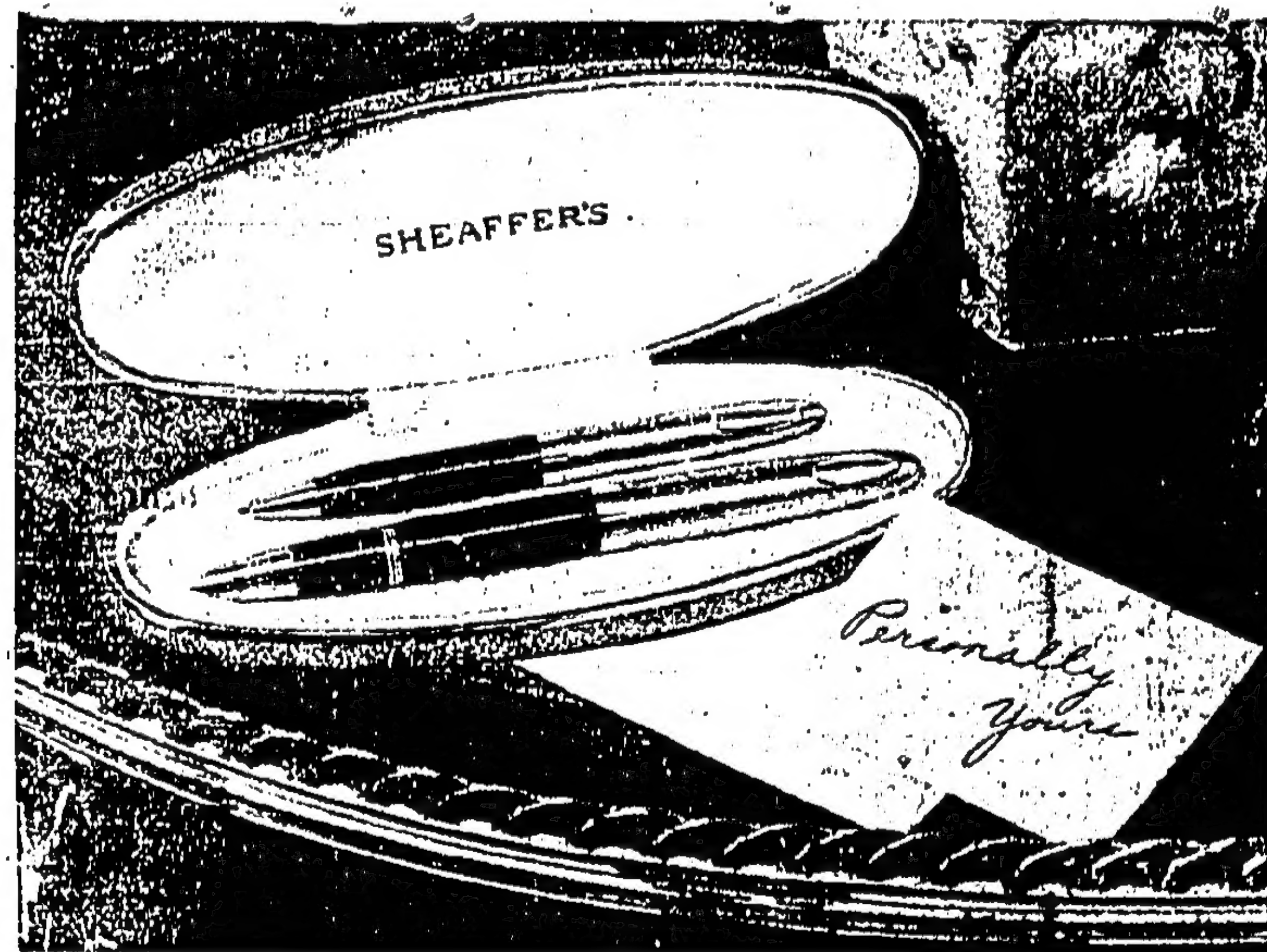
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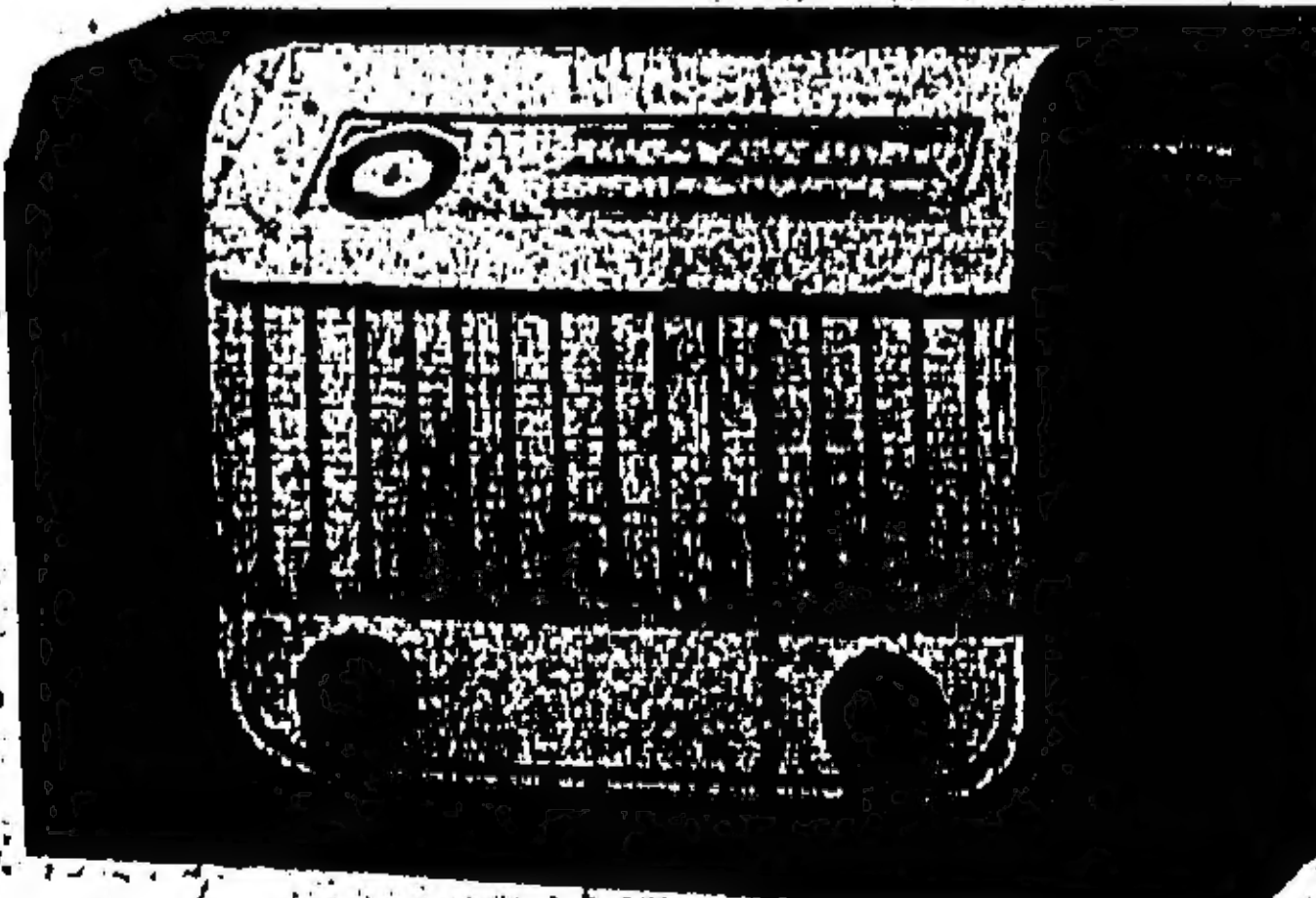
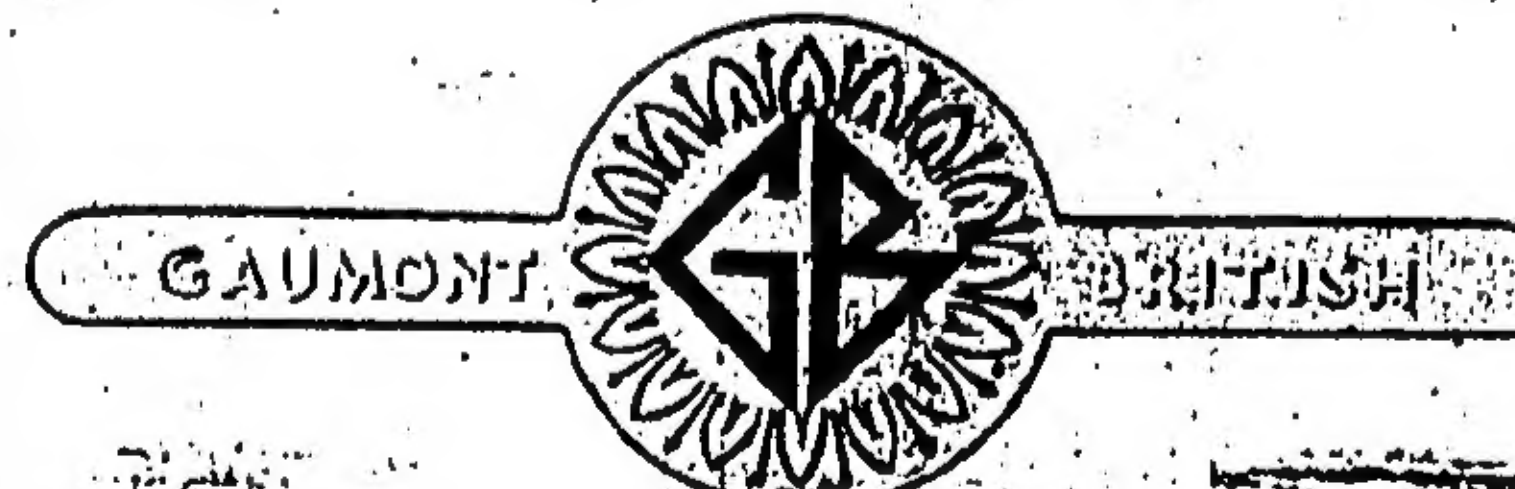
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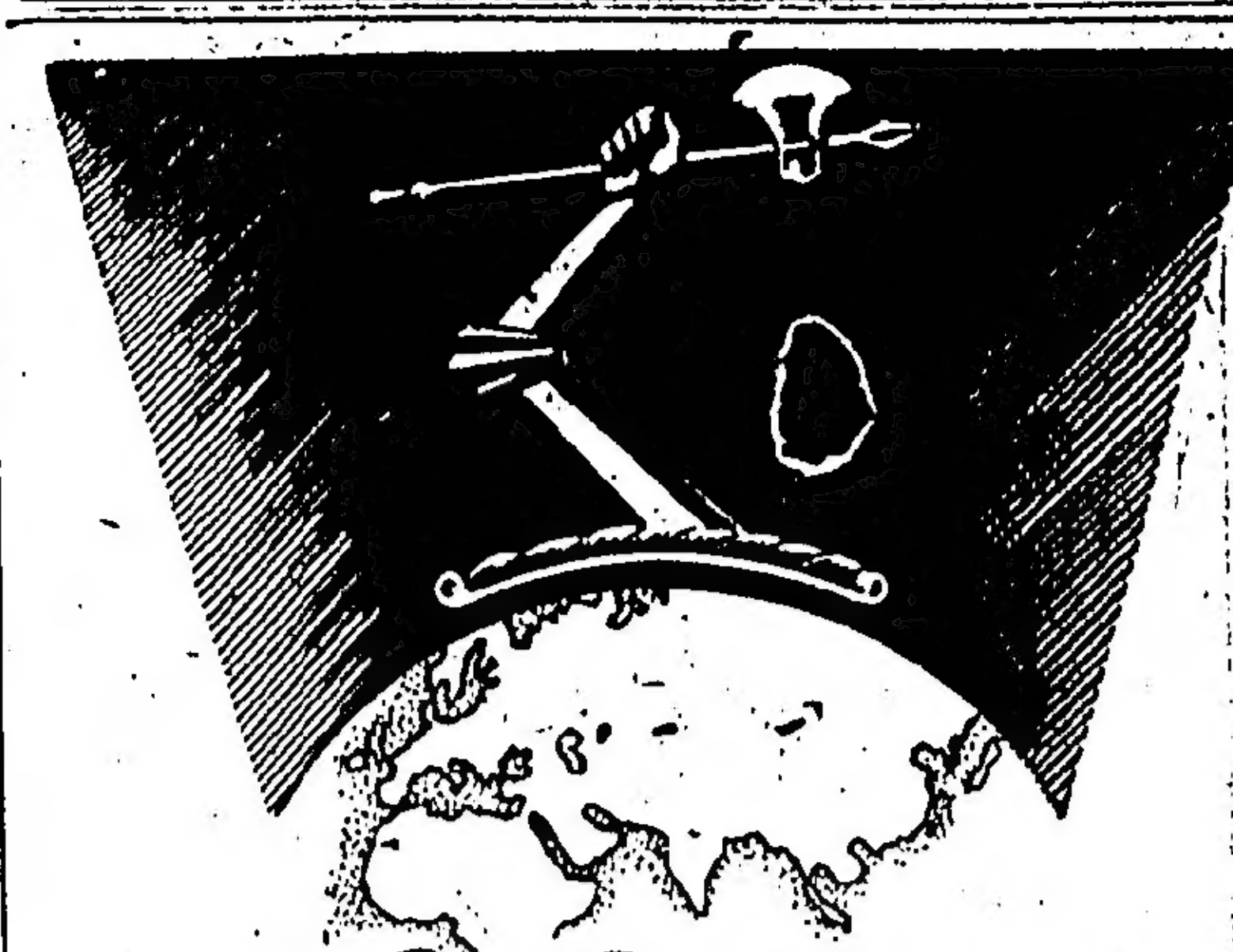
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THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB NOTICE TO MEMBERS ANNUAL RACE MEETING 1948.

Saturday, 17th January, Monday, 19th January,
Tuesday, 20th January & Saturday, 24th January.

The First Bell will be rung at 11.30 a.m. and the first race will be run at 12.00 noon, each day. The fifth interval is after the fourth race (1.30 p.m.).

Through numbers (44 race \$88.00) may be obtained at the Office of the Treasurer, 1st Floor, Exchange Building also tickets for the Special Cash Sweep on the "HONG KONG DERBY" scheduled to be run on the second day, Monday, 19th January. The latter may also be purchased at the Club's Branch Office, No. 382 Nathan Road, Kowloon.

MEMBERS' BADGES AND ENCLOSURE.

Members are reminded that they and their ladies MUST wear their badges PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED throughout the Meeting.

NO ONE WITHOUT A BADGE WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE.

Badges admitting non-members to the Members' Enclosure and Club Rooms at \$10 per day including tax are obtainable through the Secretary on the written or personal introduction of a Member, such Member to be responsible for all bills etc. Badges admitting to Members' Enclosure will NOT be on sale at the RACE COURSE.

The Treasurer's Comptroller's Office and the Secretary's Office will close at 10.00 a.m. each day. Both Offices at 1st Floor, Exchange Building.

A limited number of tickets will be obtainable at the Club House, provided they are order in advance from the No. 1 Boy (Tel. 27818).

NO CHILDREN WILL BE ADMITTED TO THE CLUB'S PREMISES DURING THE MEETING.

PUBLIC ENCLOSURE.

The price of admission to the Public Enclosure is \$3 each day including tax for all persons including ladies, and is payable at the Gate.

Bookmakers, Tio Tao men, etc. will not be permitted to operate within the precincts of The Hong Kong Jockey Club during the Race Meeting.

Refreshments will be obtainable in the Restaurant in the Public Enclosure.

SERVANTS' PASSES

Passes for Servants will be issued to Private Box holders ONLY on application to the Secretary, 1st Floor, Exchange Building.

Any persons found loitering with Servants' passes in their possession will forfeit the same and will be removed from the enclosure.

BY ORDER
J. A. BLAIR
Asst. Secretary.

PETRILLO'S FIRM STAND Musicians To Stop Making Records Ban To Start On New Year's Day

New York, Dec. 27.
One New Year resolution that will be kept, according to Mr. James Petrillo, is his vow that American musicians will make no new records after Dec. 31, 1947.
Mr. Petrillo, who, as President of the American Federation of Musicians, is the "uncrowned king" of the American music industry, reaffirmed his pledge recently when record manufacturers met to discuss ways of fighting the ban due to come into force on New Year's Day.

MUNITIONS VESSEL GUNNED

Tientsin, Dec. 27.
Laden with explosives, grenades, bombs and ammunition, the China Merchants vessel, "Chao Jen," arrived here from Shanghai yesterday afternoon when it was subjected to considerable machine-gun fire for a whole hour, greatly alarming the population, including foreigners residing in the vicinity.

Confusion reigned in the heart of the city's gay spots which were roped off by the police as a precautionary measure, while police officers confined everybody within the buildings and cleared the streets of traffic.

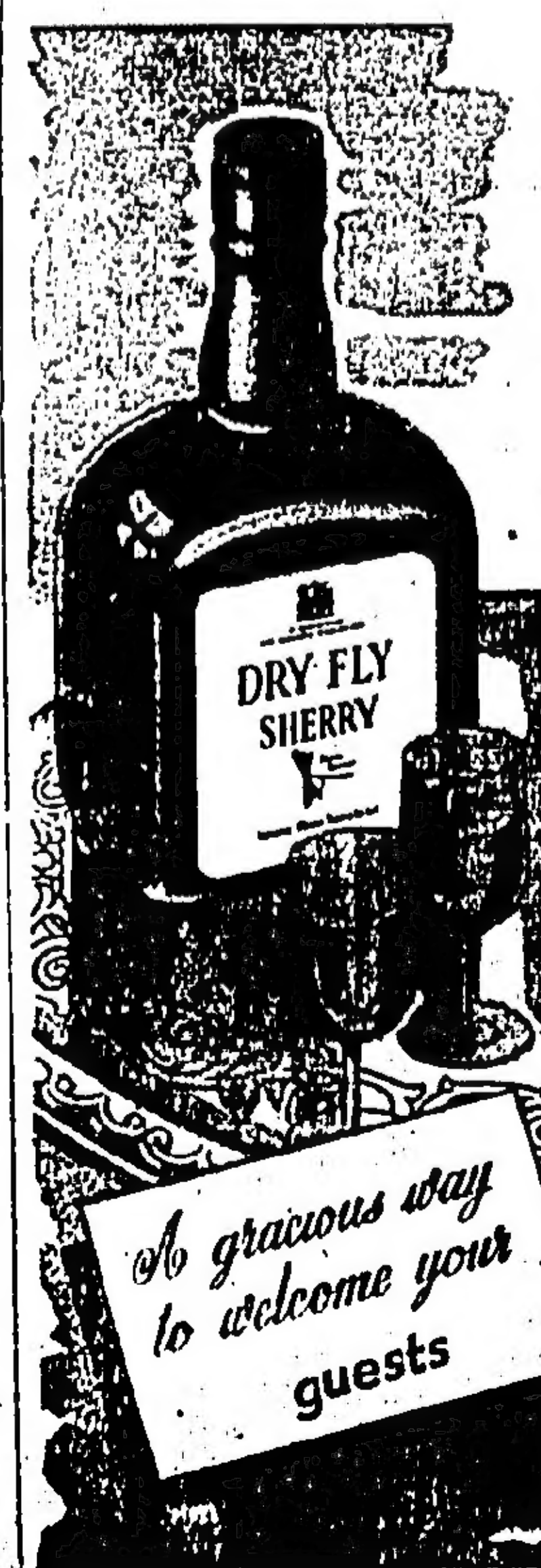
The "Chao Jen" came up the river and commenced swinging before berthing when seven or eight soldiers, belonging to the Nationalist Youth Army, attempted to cross the river in a ferry sampan.

The backwash created by the steamer caused three soldiers to fall into the river, whereupon their comrades opened fire on the ship and promptly received supporting machine-gun fire from the opposite shore where their battalion headquarters are located. All the three soldiers were picked up, but one worker on board the "Chao Jen" was slightly injured.

The ship's captain, the first mate and the pilot were later escorted to battalion headquarters, where they were stripped and exposed to the bitter cold and snow-fall.—Reuter.

BEATRICE TRIES PAINTING

New York, Dec. 27.
British comedienne Beatrice Lillie arrived from London on the Queen Mary today and said she had been doing a lot of painting. She said "I don't think I'm very good."
Asked what she had been painting, Miss Lillie said "dark knobs, carnets and fences."—United Press.



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"We are never going to make records again—never," thundered Petrillo, "and I want to emphasize that word 'never'."
"No matter how tempting the munitions' offers, the ban will stand," he declared. It had been impressed, he said, because records played over the air and in juke-boxes, competed with live musicians and nothing could change that.
Mr. Petrillo scorned the music industry's united front against him and asserted that his only interest in records now was to collect royalties on recordings already made.

Round The Clock

"We shall be collecting on records for many years to come," he explained. "It should amount to \$10,000,000."
Ever since Mr. Petrillo announced the ban on Oct. 10, teams of hoarse singers, jaded musicians and harassed mechanics have worked all round the clock making as many records as they could before Dec. 31.

Frank Sinatra, who was at the time singing on Broadway, had to discontinue his performance a few nights, because his throat was sore after recording night and day.

Music record manufacturers say that they have stored up a backlog of songs sufficient to provide listeners with records of new songs for at least a year. Even after that, they can fall back on old favourites.

All this, says Mr. Petrillo, will bring in royalties to his musicians. Tunes that will feature in films and stage shows in 1948 have already been recorded but new hit tunes will be sure to all, by musicians in the flesh and not on records.

Court Battle

Mr. Petrillo will not have it all his own way. Representatives of the radio, record manufacturing, television and transcription manufacturing industries are drafting plans for combating the ban. A court battle seems a certainty.

Mr. Petrillo says that he will not accept any legal compromise. Recording company officials say that they are seeking a legal clarification of their status as regards paying royalties.
Mr. Petrillo interprets the contract as an order to these companies to keep on paying royalties but the companies think otherwise.

The year 1948, it seems, will see a battle royal over the future of mechanized music. Mr. Petrillo may call his musicians out on strike rather than yield on the issue.

American radio listeners will then, according to one New York columnist, have to be content with musical sawyers.—Reuter.

Maniu's Nephew Sentenced

London, Dec. 27.
Doctor Constantin Grafencu, nephew of Dr. Julius Maniu the veteran Rumanian peasant leader, now under life imprisonment for treason, was among the group of peasant party members sentenced by Bucharest military tribunal today for trying to escape from Rumania by air, the Bucharest radio reported.

He was sent to prison for six months.

Two pilots who were to fly a plane abroad were each given a deferred sentence of two years imprisonment.

Two of the accused received two years imprisonment and six others were sentenced to terms ranging between five months and one year. The highest sentence—five years—was passed in the prisoners' absence.—Reuter.

NEW SUBSIDY!

Washington, Dec. 27.
The United States Government is planning to ask Congress to pay the costs of sending American newspapers and magazines abroad by air. It was disclosed in a letter written to a senator by Mr. Robert Lovett.—Reuter.

NEW YORK SNOWED UNDER

New York, Dec. 27.
The heaviest snowfall in New York since the turn of the century buried the metropolitan area under 14 inches of snow late today and was still falling tonight.
The city put 10,000 men with 500 large ploughs and 900 smaller ones, 50 motorised brooms and 100 sand spreaders to work but they could not clear the snow off the streets as fast as it fell.
Many shops decided to shut down as traffic, pedestrian and motor, became bogged down.—Reuter.

Nuffield's Stimulant

London, Dec. 27.
Lord Nuffield, the motor magnate, has given £1,000,000 to promote overseas sales and thus contribute to furthering the new export policy of the Nuffield organization and help to tide Britain over her economic crisis.
The Nuffield organization is Britain's leading automobile manufacturers and makes Morris and Wolseleys.

The announcement tonight said that, following a year in which all export records had been broken, orders for Nuffield exports for the first six months of 1948 already showed an increase and would be still further augmented by this new sales promotion scheme.—Reuter.

SHOPPING BUS FATALITIES

Beaufort, S.C., Dec. 27.
Six, including a man, were killed and at least 31 injured, 13 seriously, when a bus bringing them home from a shopping expedition overturned near here yesterday.
The bus swerved from the highway, overturned and crashed crazily into a pine tree.—United Press.

END OF WORLD IN 50 YEARS!

Melbourne, Dec. 27.
The 114-year-old Australian prophet whose prophecies have been proved correct twice during the past few weeks today predicted, that Armageddon would come in "50 years or so."

Ahmar Gaga Singh predicted on Dec. 10 that sunspots would appear over Australia two minutes after midnight on Christmas Day. He was right.

Earlier he had predicted accurately the appearance of a comet which has been observed over the Southern Hemisphere in the past few weeks.

"War will continue for another 50 years or so on and off, with Armageddon at the end of it, as God has said he will take the people from the earth before the final slaughter," he said today.

Ahmar Singh, who claims to have fought in 18 wars and to have been married nine times, expects to live to see his prophecy come true.—United Press.

"Now Is The Time"

Tulsa, Oklahoma, Dec. 27.
Senator Elmer Thomas, Oklahoma, is quoted by the newspaper "Tulsa World" as saying, during an interview, "Now is the time for the United States to stop appeasing the Russians and call their bluff."

"If they really do want war," he was quoted, "then the quicker it is over the better."
Senator Thomas referred to the international situation as acute and said "anything can happen but I have faith that the Russian people have more sense than to get in a war. We are sitting on a powder keg. We do not want war, and surely they do not want war."—Associated Press.



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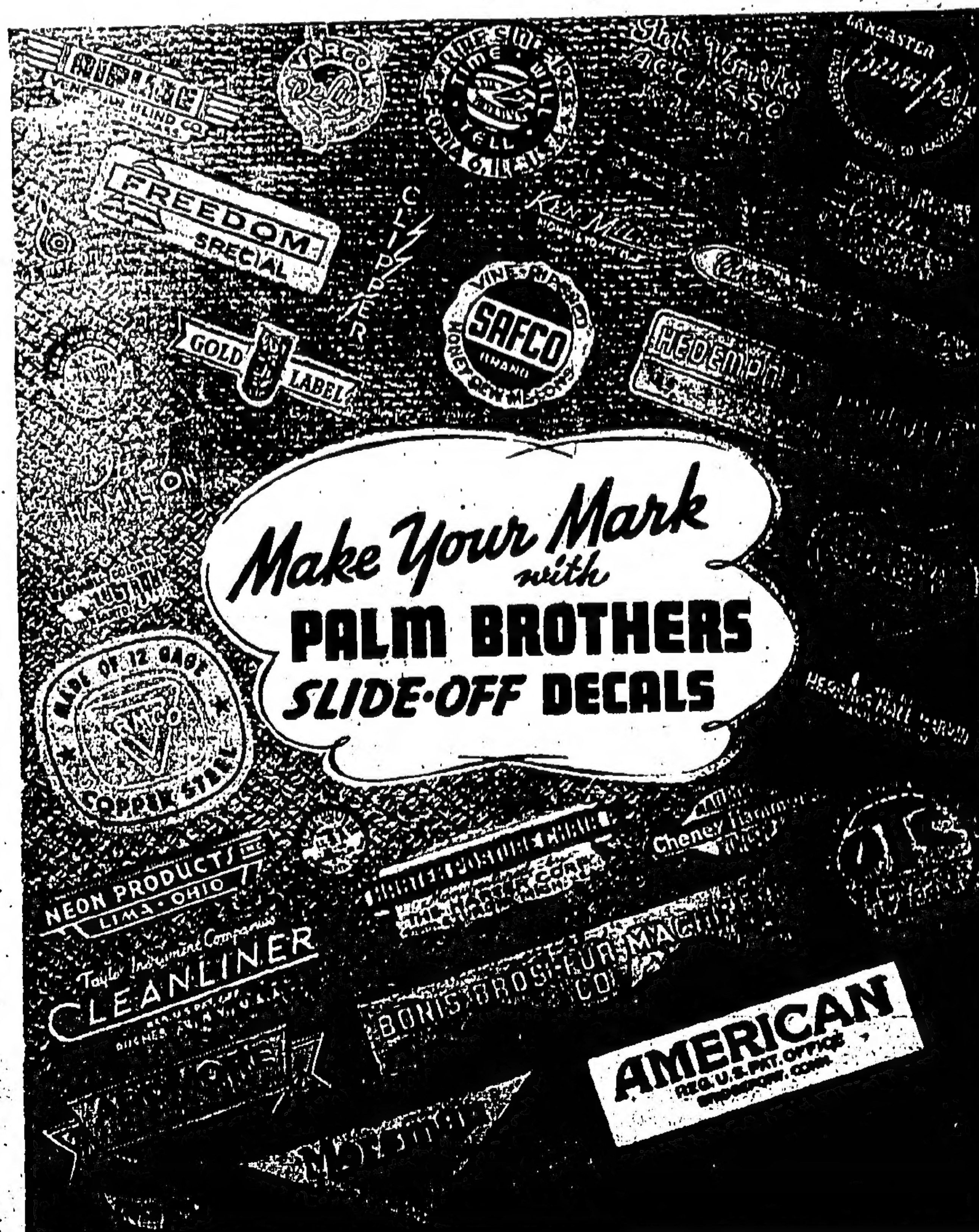


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BIRTHS

TAMWORTH.—To Adl on Dec.
28th, 1947, a son, Philip.

ALVES.—To Marie, wife of F. D. Alves, at the St. Teresa's Hospital, on 24th December, 1947, a son.

FORTESCUE.—On 24th December, 1947, at Washington, D.C., to Margery, wife of T.Y.H. (Tim) Fortescue, a daughter—Diana.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

MRS. CAROLINE GUTTERRES and the family of the late Dr. J.M.P. Gutterres wish to tender heartfelt thanks to their many relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy for attendance at the funeral, for floral tributes and donations to charity sent during their recent bereavement.

GREEK REBELS

The Greek Rebel Broadcasting Station based on Belgrade, has over the Christmas holidays announced the formation of a "Free Greek Government" composed of Communists. This move has been forecast ever since last July and therefore it comes as no surprise. It is not, however, entirely in accordance with the plan. The plan of the Greek Communist Party was to capture some city or town which might serve as their capital and to induce some Left Wing non-Communist politicians to join their combination. Neither objective has been attained and it may be the consummation of this failure which has precipitated the proclamation of the revolutionary government.

The efficiency of the Communists with their army of bandits in claiming to set up a Free Greek Government, is itself derisory. But viewed against the background of support which, as was established by the first United Nations Enquiry Commission, the rebels have long been receiving from Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania, this move may be fertile in complications and embarrassments.

All or any of these three neighbours of Greece may proceed to recognise the "Free Government," though that revolutionary body patently does not fulfil the necessary conditions for recognition as a belligerent in a civil war, much less as a government. However this may be, the latest move of the Greek Communist Party may be seen as a fresh manifestation of the activities dictated by the Cominform after its recent attempts to promote social disruption in France and Italy.

Nor can it escape notice that the move follows immediately upon the conclusion of Marshal Tito's tour during which he signed treaties of alliance with Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania. In this perspective it is impossible to take other than a serious view of the Greek rebel announcement.

Hollywood Speaks

Gowns by Adrian, dialogue by rote....

Hollywood has long been the stronghold of the tired cliché in the fabulous decor. Now a screenwriter, Mr. I. A. L. Diamond, has come out with the results of puerile "investigation" into film dialogue to show how speech is styled for a standardised machine age. He announces that of 425 feature pictures produced in Hollywood last year, 419 contained the following lines:

"What are you doing here?"
"I can explain the whole thing."

"Well, if that's the way you feel about it...."

"Somebody, it appears, has forgotten to change the record. Or is Hollywood infatuated with the sound of its own dialogue, as Mr. Diamond suggests? We recall the lines of Romeo:

"How silver-sweet sound lovers' tongues by night,
Like softest music to attending ears."

Fare attending the silverscreen, says Mr. Diamond, are almost certain to be greeted by such tender, lovers' utterances as:

"They're playing our song."
"Then this is good-bye!" "But why am I telling you all this?"

We recall that in 19th-century drama of the legitimate stage, women characters were always saying, "Won't you sit down!" But the cliché has been carried



RUSSIAN CHRISTMAS CAROL

GERMANY'S FUTURE

The last war deprived Germany of her position as a Great Power; but it could not prevent the Germans from still being the second largest language-group in Europe—only the Russians exceeding them. In virtue of their numbers, their quality as soldiers, their industrial proficiency and their geographical situation, they remain one of the principal factors for the future of the Continent. They have behind them a long record of militarism and aggression, culminating during this century in two catastrophic wars.

What is to be done about them? That is essentially the question which the Conference of Foreign Ministers had to answer, if it could answer anything. Before the war ended, some progress had been made towards an agreed Allied policy. Germany was not to be partitioned, but to be wholly disarmed; and to ensure that she should not, as after the former war, wriggle out of disarmament, she was to be subjected to a very long period—several decades, perhaps—of Allied military occupation. Reparations—again in the light of post-1919 experience—were not to be paid by the Germans out of current production, but taken, so far as they could be, in the form of capital assets. For economic purposes Germany was to be treated as a unit; and in proportion as it became possible, for administrative purposes also.

The Division

This conception was never acted on. For the purposes of military occupation Germany was divided into zones—originally three. As between Russia and the two Western Powers the division was settled at a time when it could not be foreseen whether Germany would be conquered from the East or from the West. Therefore to avoid dispute the area was roughly halved, the Eastern half going to Russia, Russia in this way obtained, as things turned out, a much larger zone of occupation than her armies overran, and one which did not at all correspond to the natural division of Germany between East and West. Its strangest feature in both respects is that it includes Thuringia. Yet that might not have mattered so much if the zones, which were meant to be bounded merely for purposes of military occupation, had remained such and nothing more.

It was the Russians who first gave them a different character. From the outset they treated their zone as something which they would add permanently to the Soviet Empire—not indeed to be flatter annexed like the Baltic States or Bessarabia, but to be governed through the technique of a puppet Government, as Poland and Hungary are and all the Balkan countries except Greece. The first step was to exclude the other Allies from the zone and convert its boundaries into economic frontiers. The next was to build up a Communist party, prepared to act as Russia's puppets, and the next to effect a forced fusion between the Socialist and Communist parties with the latter as the tail which should wag the dog. All these measures were accompanied by the imposition of an iron curtain to keep out Western ideas, and by an unceasing propaganda designed to implant Russian ideas.

Russia's Aim

A feature of this propaganda has been the unrestrained violence with which it has attacked and misrepresented all the doings of the Western Allies. The explanation is that Russia is aiming to bring within her orbit not her own zone only, but the whole of Germany. Socialist-Communist fusion is a weapon which she tries to use, not only within her zone frontier, but beyond it. There, however, she has so far had no success; for the Western Socialist-Democrats have no wish to put their heads into the Communist noose so long as the Western Allies make it possible for them to refuse to do so. Russia's way of trying to discredit their resistance is to represent herself as the champion of German unity and the recalcitrant Socialist-Democrats as the catpaws of a Western attempt to divide the Fatherland.

Absurd though this claim is, it has a surface plausibility. If Russia succeeds to new heights by the streamlined movie heroine who cries in carefully coached accents, "Yes, I killed him! And I'm glad, yes, I hear me, glad, glad, GLAD."

When romance and murder become stereotypes, and speech a machine-made appeal to stock responses, it is time to go out into the fresh air and listen to "the birds' sweet song."

needed in absorbing her Allies' zones, the zonal lines would disappear. The Western Allies—on the other hand—are attempting no more than to hold their ground, and that means perpetuating the zonal line. True, they urge Russia to restore that economic unity of Germany which was accepted at Yalta and Potsdam and which the iron curtain has obliterated. But their urgings are verbal only;

there is behind them no plan to apply pressure of any kind. And no sensible person either here or in Germany can suppose that without pressure Russia will give way.

Long Tradition

Russia is acting in this matter on a long tradition of national policy. Between St. Petersburg and Berlin there was a co-operation only rarely interrupted during two centuries. Bismarck himself, before he became Prussian Prime Minister, had not only been Prussian Ambassador to the Tsar, but had been invited by the Tsar to become Chancellor of the Russian Empire. The war of 1914-18 seemed to end all this; yet it subsequently soon revived. The Treaty of Rapallo (1922) and the treaty between Hitler and Stalin (negotiated by Molotov), which launched the 1939 war, were its most striking inter-war expressions. Again it was in

THE POLITICAL SCENE.—By Alistair Forbes

Gravesend May Be A Blessing

I believe that the Tories may come to look upon their Gravesend failure as an unlooked-for blessing. Nothing would be more fatal for the Opposition than to turn the political tide with a promise of prosperity to be achieved through the removal of all controls. It would prove a tremendous liability to them in the tasks of administration in the event of their being returned to power.

It is not simply a question of refusing, as Mr. Churchill made clear at Manchester, "to make any promise of lush and easy money." It is no less important to avoid the appearance of making such promises or the impression of being in possession of some policy which would result in any immediate easing of present hardships.

Those Conservatives who have lately been betraying impatience with the uncompromising frankness in the respect of their most distinguished fellow-traveller, Sir John Anderson, may yet come to look upon him with gratitude as the keeper of the Conservative conscience.

They like to think that Sir John, because he has never been quite at home in the atmosphere of the House of Commons, is ignorant of the rules of political and party tactics. Yet he is surely right in his pessimistic estimate of the capacity of the electorate to be influenced by mere words, however full of truth, just as he is surely right in his optimistic estimate of the capacity of the nation for ultimate recovery.

The Churchill Slogan

"To bring home these truths at this time of day more words will not suffice," he says. "There must be a practical demonstration of the consequences of the policy pursued for so long by the present Government before you can get a full understanding of the situation." In short, things will have to get worse before people can be made to grasp how they can be made better.

When Mr. Churchill picked the slogan "Set the People Free" he was, as he said, "striking a note," though hardly a new one. In itself it is not a bad slogan, but no slogan can be an effective one if it requires qualification. And this one requires a lot of qualification, which Mr. Churchill has

so far not bothered to provide. Yet he must be well aware that the Administration which he might in the future head could consider the removal of all controls. In pointing to the example of America he made a most unhappy choice of argument, and one which was soon falsified by President Truman himself in a subsequent speech.

Mr. Churchill should be warned by his experience and should certainly resist the temptation to point next to the example of Russia, where Messrs. Malenkov and Zhdanov have turned from foreign to domestic affairs, and have announced their intention to put an end to rationing in their own country.

I doubt if the average elector is greatly concerned with the question of central controls, though there is no doubt that he would greatly benefit from the far more liberal and far more decentralised manner in which the Tories intend them to operate.

Game of Forfeits

He would, however, be greatly interested in hearing a list of the large number of complicated and petty restrictions which might be removed by a Conservative Government without endangering the efficiency of the national economy and which would do so much to increase the freedom of the harassed and overworked citizen. Here is a matter to which the Tories might profitably direct their attention.

The election at Epsom had one feature in common with all their recent by-elections in that the Liberal candidate forfeited his deposit. The leaders of the Liberal Party have always insisted on the importance of putting up candidates in order to prove that the party is still in existence, presumably on the grounds that any organisation that can afford to throw away £150 with such regularity must have hidden reserves of strength as well as money.

This is liberality rather than Liberalism. It is a game of forfeits that is not likely to find backers for much longer. Mr. Isaac Foot, like Mistinguet, is a gallant old trooper, but he must be growing tired of accounting members of his audience with the hopeful question "Are you a millionaire?"

PIRACY AND ITS PREVENTION

By H.G.W. Woodhead, C.B.E.

The most effective method of coping with piratical attacks on coast-going steamers, in which the usual technique of the Blas Bay fraternity is employed, is, of course, action by the Chinese authorities ashore. The technique referred to invariably involves the shipment of the pirates in the guise of passengers, and seizure of the ship at a prearranged time, or on a prearranged signal. Such precautions as imposing a check of some kind upon the booking of steerage passengers and their embarkation, searches for firearms by Police, and, either the carrying of armed guards and the provision of grilles on every ship, or the transmission at fixed intervals of wireless reports of each vessel's position, may render internal piracies more difficult. But the crux of the whole piracy problem is the prevention of the landing of pirates with their loot and/or hostages. There would be no inducement to pirate a vessel if the miscreants had not a reasonable prospect of getting ashore unobserved, and disposing of their booty.

The Seizure

On December 14 the 4,500-ton Dutch liner *Van Heutz* was seized by a gang of about twenty-five pirates, who had shipped as passengers either in Hongkong or in Singapore. The outrage had obviously been carefully planned. The *Van Heutz* was carrying 1,600 deck and 70 cabin passengers. Nearly all of them were Chinese, who, as the pirates well knew, were returning to their homeland for China New Year, and would, therefore, in most instances be carrying most of their overseas savings in the form of cash. The pirates also knew that the usual armed guard of a Dutch Steamer and a dozen or so men had been removed at Sourabaya. Later, it became known that this step was taken against the Captain's

protests, because the Chinese authorities at Amoy and Swatow complained repeatedly that the presence of a military guard on a merchant ship was inconsistent with China's sovereign rights. (This excuse was insisted upon despite the fact that only a few weeks ago another Dutch vessel, about to sail from Amoy, was boarded by a horde of armed ruffians who extorted a large sum of money from the Captain as indemnity for unmanifested cargo that had been seized in Hongkong.)

Audacious Outrage

The *Van Heutz* is, I believe, the largest ocean-going vessel to have been seized by the Blas Bay pirates. In the past they have usually confined their activities to coastal steamers of 1,500 to 3,000 tons, which have only carried five to seven European officers (against the *Van Heutz*'s seventeen). The audacity of this outrage suggests that all seagoing ships leaving Hongkong, which do not already carry armed guards, or a European crew, will request the re-institution of pre-war anti-piracy precautions until such time as the Chinese authorities show their willingness and ability to root out pirate nests in the Blas Bay area, or provide preventive forces ashore and off the coast sufficient in numbers and armaments to prevent landings by pirates with loot and hostages.

The anti-piracy problems are tied in closely with smuggling. The common practice of throwing all the blame for smuggling along the nearby coasts on to the Hongkong Government loses much of its force when it is revealed that the *Van Heutz* was in the hands of the pirates for fifteen hours before they commandeered junkies to go ashore, most of which time the vessel must have been in full view of the land. For several hours during that period she was at anchor—a fact which, in this vicinity, should have been sufficient to arouse suspicion that the ship was not pursuing her lawful occupation. The locality in which the pirates landed must be known to the Captain and Officers, and if any serious efforts were being made to prevent smuggling and piracy in this region, a mobile force ought to have reached the spot soon after the *Van Heutz* was able to radio to Hongkong news of what had happened, and her position at the moment. China's anti-smuggling precautions must be pretty well non-existent in this area if a large foreign steamer can steer an erratic course, or be anchored off the coast, for fifteen hours, without attracting the attention of preventive vessels afloat, or preventive staffs ashore.

Prevention

Prevention of piracy—and smuggling—ought to be the responsibility of the Chinese Government. Even if the issue of sovereign rights did not arise—and it may be doubted whether the carrying of armed guards through areas known to be infested with pirates does constitute an infringement of sovereignty—shipowners ought not to be put to the expense and inconvenience caused by elaborate structural alterations, and the engagement, training and payment of armed guards, whose presence would be superfluous on any coast where the local authorities cooperated effectively in anti-piracy precautions.

The Hazard

It is not clear from eyewitness reports of the *Van Heutz* piracy whether her uninvited passengers embarked at Singapore or Hongkong. The one foreign passenger on board declared that he definitely recognized one of the pirates as a man he had seen at Singapore. As very few passengers appear to have embarked at Hongkong, and, presumably, have since been accounted for, it would be reasonable to assume that the outrage was planned at Singapore, and carried out by pseudo-passengers who boarded the vessel there. In any case, both the Singapore and the Hongkong Police must now realize that the Blas Bay piracy gang is once more at work, and may be trusted to take all possible precautions to prevent this hazard developing once more on the scale experienced in the late 'twenties.

SUNDAY HERALD MAGAZINE SECTION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1947.

Nippon Marriage: Custom Survives

Little Yoshiko Has Heard About The New Constitution But Sees No Change

By GORDON WALKER

Drums of democratic reform beat loudly in the streets of the big city. But down here, in a little fishing village near the mouth of Tokyo Bay, they are only a muffled sound, sometimes heard faintly, often not heard at all.

The wind must have been blowing the wrong way recently when little Yoshiko, only daughter of Saito-san and his wife, found herself suddenly with a brand new husband.

Little Yoshiko had read something about the new constitution. She had heard something about a "new deal" for Japan's enslaved women. She had even seen a newspaper cut of a woman making a speech on the floor of the National Diet.

But as she spent her day cooking for the family over a charcoal hibachi, or mending the badly worn tatami mats on the common sleeping room floor, she had no particular feeling of change.

Twenty-eight years under the strict Japanese family code had taught her that a girl in the family is welcome only if she "swings her weight" at the housework.

Papa-San Was Boss

Papa-san was boss; and if he couldn't afford a servant in the house, little Yoshiko was at least an inexpensive substitute.

It made little difference to him that little Yoshiko was pleasant, attractive, good-natured, and inherently kind. He and his wife had not borne any children, and they had purchased Yoshiko many years ago from a factory owner who had felt that his own household was overburdened with useless girl-children.

The value of little Yoshiko was not her sunny disposition; it was her good health and her willingness to do all the nasty chores around the house.

Saito-san, moreover, was no longer a young man. His wife, though an able worker with a hoe, was also getting along. And as Saito-san thought of his coming retirement, he saw in little Yoshiko the "bait" with which to lure to his household a strong, sturdy son who could carry on the family name, and, even more important, shoulder the family burdens.

The story of Yoshiko's marriage is the same as hundreds of similar "arrangements" being made every day. It is the story of Japanese women, at least the vast majority who work and wait in all the little towns and villages of Japan.

Fleecy Blonds

Equality of sexes and freedom from the family system are on paper. In some cases are being practised, mostly in the big cities where the impact of the occupation cannot be escaped.

But for the vast majority, and for little Yoshiko, they are like the fleecy clouds which hang over the little fishing village—you can see them and admire them, but you can't touch them.

For little Yoshiko, the entire matter was cut and dried, just as it has been for centuries here in Japan.

One day Saito-san announced that he was going on a trip. He did not say where or for what reason.

On his return, a week later, he called a brief family council of three, and



Japanese Bride and Bridegroom, in Ceremonial Dress, Celebrate the Wedding With Families and Friends.

announced tersely that he had opened negotiations for a marriage.

He did not give any details; he merely instructed his wife and little Yoshiko to take the next train to a town on the opposite coast of Japan, and there present themselves to a certain family whom he had recently visited.

He did not bother to explain that through devious methods he had found a family with a second son for whom they had little need; that the family had tentatively agreed to a marriage proposal which included a proviso that the bridegroom be adopted into the bride's family and take up the name.

Spice and span in a gaudily figured new kimono, little Yoshiko, accompanied by her mother, duly arrived at the home of the prospective bridegroom.

The family of the husband-to-be was fussing. They stood off and, muttering to themselves, pointed out the obvious defects in little Yoshiko's appearance.

She smiled too easily—perhaps she was a bit on the sillyside. One never knew these days with so many war widows trying to arrange for new husbands.

Proffered Son

They felt of her muscles, hard from long hours of what in any other country might be classed as indentured labour. They grunted approval of the white, even rows of teeth. And they responded with an interested "ah so" when informed that little Yoshiko had studied sewing and could, as carefully printed out by the dutiful mother, mend the badly worn shirts which could not be replaced in this period of Japan's postwar misery.

Then, as a sort of compensation for the carefully conducted examination, the family brought forth the proffered son.

Little Yoshiko related afterward that

and then left with her mother for the journey back.

The weeks that followed were not easy for little Yoshiko. She had hoped in vain that at least she might have a marriage ceremony, even though it meant walking through the streets five paces behind her husband, followed by the tedious business of sitting unmoved from seven in the evening until seven the next morning, while visitors offer congratulations.

But she did not complain. She obeyed all the orders issued to her by the new master of her daily affairs. And the new master, in turn, unhesitatingly assumed his new role as adopted son in the household.

She really had no reason to complain, she told herself. After all, it was the custom; it was part of the "culture" which is being stressed so much these days in Japan.

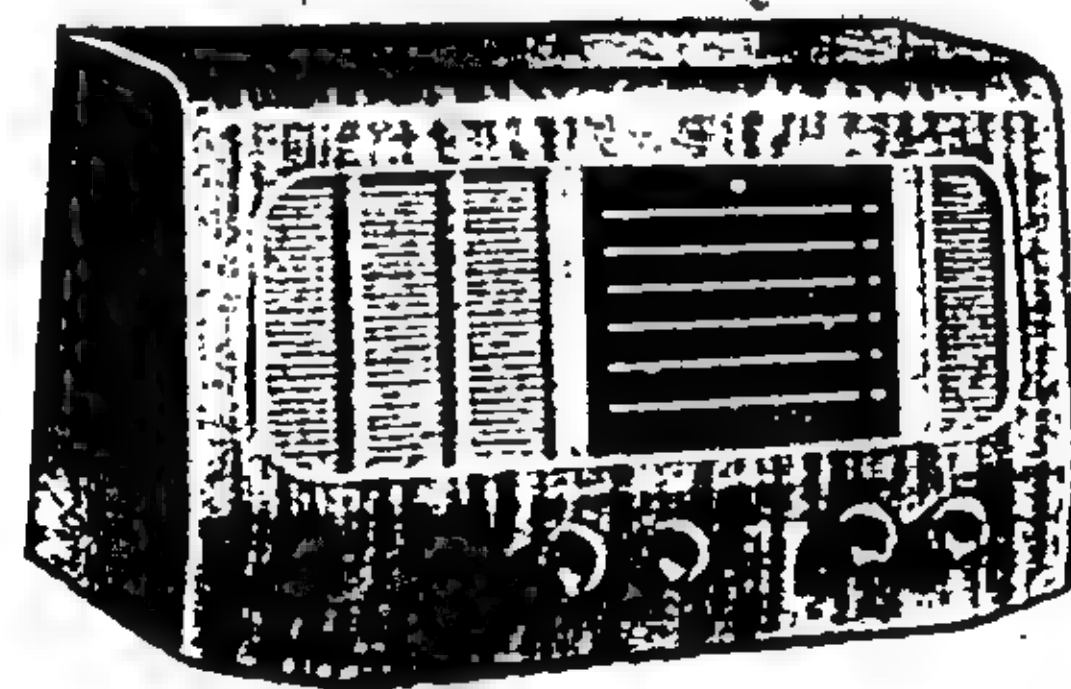
Besides, she had many girl friends who had undergone the same experience. None had even the faintest notion of protesting; it was the custom—a girl-child has no rights in the family.

Highly-Pleased

Saito-san himself was highly pleased. He had a son—the family chain of command had been restored. He even indulged himself the luxury of registering the marriage in the town's book—a formality which is often ignored in the rural areas.

Today little Yoshiko smiles perhaps a bit less spontaneously but nevertheless more readily than during the early days of her marriage.

She has managed to rationalize her position: "Perhaps I can learn to like my new Danna-san if I try hard enough—then mama-san and papa-san will be happy.—From the "Christian Science Monitor."



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NEWS QUIZ

1. A Chinese general lecturing in the United States criticised the Chiang regime, and was asked by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to return to China. The erring general said that he felt "honour-bound to refuse to recognise Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's personal order." Who is the general?
2. By a vote of 453 to 62, the Constituent Assembly in Italy approved a constitution for the Republic of Italy. Who is to be the first President of the new Republic? And what ruling House does he displace?
3. Do you know who is likely to be appointed Chief Administrator of the all-important Marshall Plan?
4. William Elijah Allen was convicted of accepting bribes. The case created widespread interest in Hong Kong. Do you remember what sentence was passed?
5. Disaster overtook the small Swiss village of Blausee-Mitholz this week. What happened there?
6. A popular Hong Kong Club was gutted by fire on December 20. Which one was it?
7. An effort to solve France's internal troubles has been suggested by the Finance Minister of France, one of the most important men in the Government. Who is the French Finance Minister?

(Answers on Page 4)

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

1. Princess Elizabeth has been making news for the last six months, ever since the day her engagement was announced. Do you know the next five in order of succession to the Throne after her?
2. Do you know how many counties there are in Northern Ireland—and what they are?
3. Back to the Royal Family—the King's birthday is on December 14. But the "official" King's Birthday is —
4. One of the group of the Iles du Salut has been internationally famous under its own name for centuries. What does the fame of this one island rest on? And what is the island?
5. Volcanoes have always been good for a cataclysmic eruption just when it's least wanted. Do you know what, and where, is the highest active volcano in the world?
6. Can you name five of the major planets in the solar system, leaving out our own good old Earth?
7. Here's one for the puzzle fiends: If it took seven men seven days to dig seven holes, how long would it take one man to dig half a hole?

(Answers on Page 9)

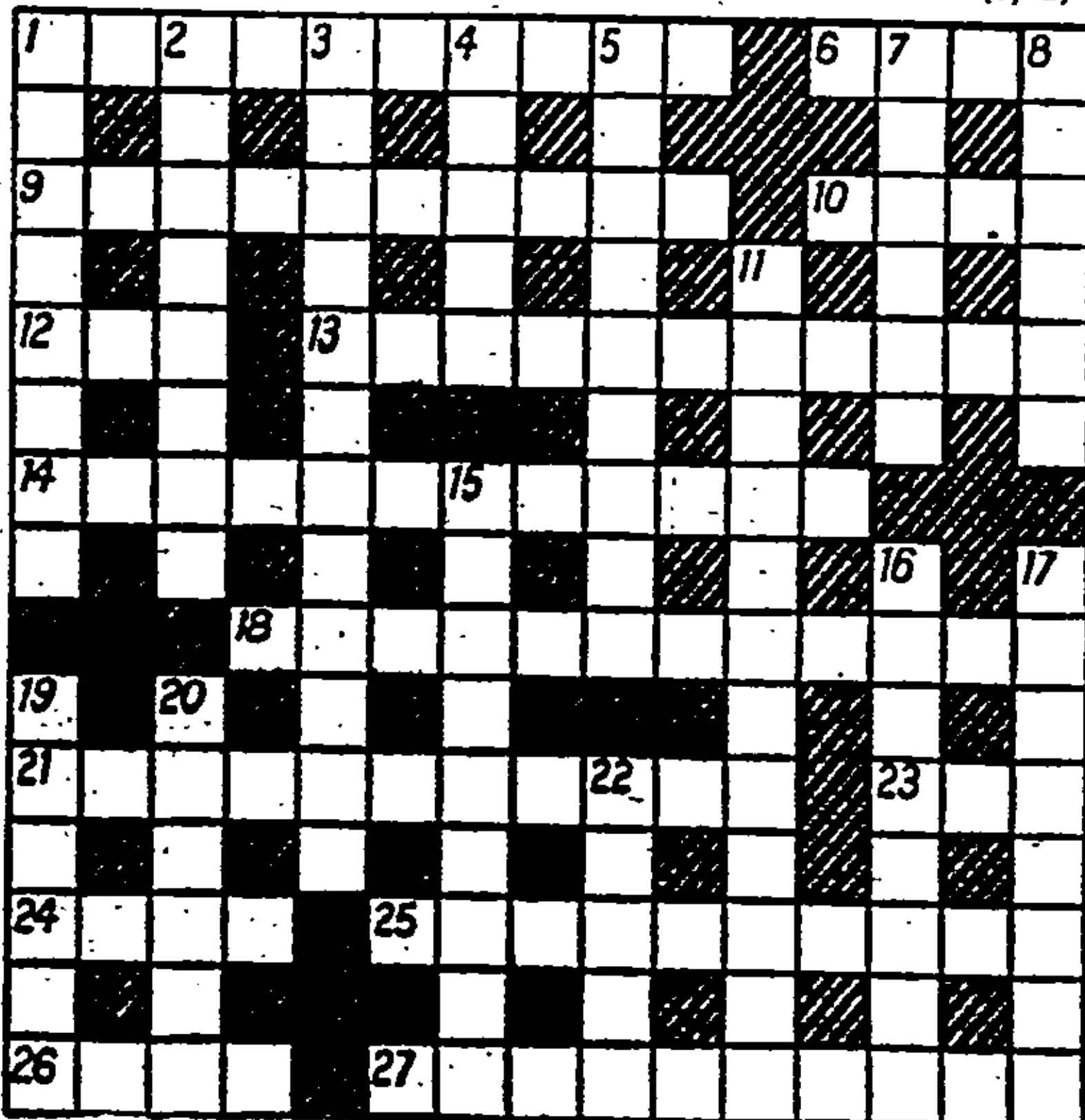
CROSSWORD No. 36

ACROSS

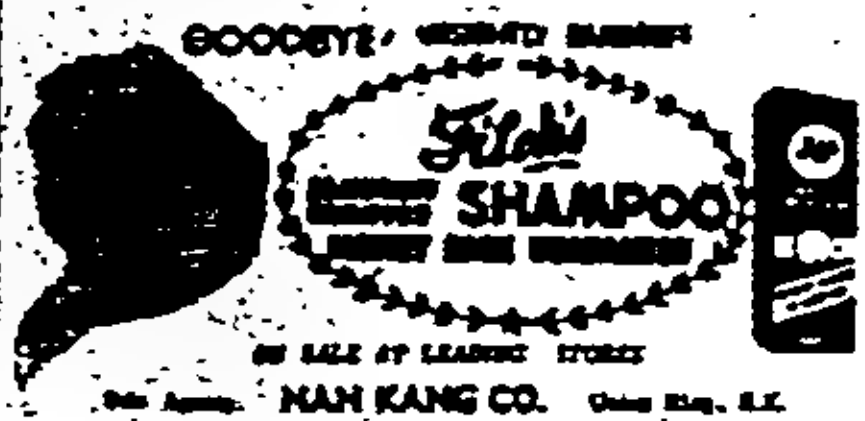
- 1 Did its politics teetotally rival these of the village pub? (6, 4)
- 6 I twice get the bird. (4)
- 9 They have no means of settling. (10).
- 10 What breaks the bowling? (4)
- 12 Indulged in a lunatic jump. (3)
- 13 Get completely rid of exeat in term. (11)
- 14 Is this a triumphal indication that the joint is "off"? (8, 4).
- 18 They give tongue in other tongues. (12)
- 21 It holds the reins. (6, 5).
- 23 Not a full diet, and so insufficient to sustain life. (3)
- 24 The donkey returned by the Circle. (4)
- 25 Kipling produced many. (10).
- 26 It should always be soundly rendered in it. (4)
- 27 Air reports used for protection in time of war. (10).

DOWN

- 1 "It is well done, and fitting for a—Descended of so many royal kings," —"Antony and Cleopatra." (8)
- 2 A forest of briars perhaps. (8)
- 3 A cloudy interior, for the optimist. (6, 6).
- 4 You must double the stuff for this. (5)
- 5 Craft, yet not skill in automobiles. (5-4)
- 7 Orchestras, actors and teams get their effects with such side action. (2-4).
- 8 "—and evening star, Ane one clear call for me" (Tennyson). (6)
- 11 Vehicle for which one cannot book a return ticket? (6-8).
- 15 Coming out, but not necessarily in Society. (9)
- 16 More brain than brawn? (8)
- 17 The sort of rating you get depends on his idea of your home or business value. (8)
- 19 One could evidently not test things in this way. (3, 3)
- 20 Strange child has a wager. (4, 2)
- 22 Just a hole ahead. (3, 2)



SOLUTION TO NO 35.—Across: 1 Whiplash, 5 Shapes, 10 Rosette, 11 Old Parr, 12 Nairn, 13 Wcebegone, 14 The Good Old Days, 17 Right of the Line, 21 Stoncrop, 23 Isle, 24 Hymnals, 25 Istalian, 26 Tanner, 27 Stranger. DOWN:—1 Wiring, 2 Ipswich, 3 Late Night, 4 Sherwood Forest, 6 Hedge, 7 Pianola, 8 Surcease, 9 Come to the Point, 15 Dalai Lama, 16 Brass Hat, 18 Godman, 19 Nothing, 20 Werner, 22 Evade.



Lane Norcott

"This season, when nice presents are so hard to find in the shops, why not give your friends a pet? Most people would welcome a pedigree puppy or kitten, although, naturally, they do not want their homes turned into small circuses. Eschew, therefore, such gifts as marmosets, tame squirrels, tortoises, etc."—From a helpful piece in a glossy weekly.

Never pamper a gift sea-lion or encourage it to curl up on the end of your bed. A healthy sea-lion would far sooner sleep in the sink at night.

Don't tie little bells or ribbons round its neck if you wish it to retain its self-respect.

Should you possess a billiards table, then hide the balls if you don't want it to balance them on its nose incessantly.

When it applauds itself, ignore it. Sea-lions, of course, should be kept in a damp place and given frequent doses of intramolecular oxygen, which we are thankful to say, stupefies them.

Problem

Recently in our club we were privileged to have a drink with a chap who is employed by the Crown to analyse people's insides when it is suspected that someone has poisoned them.

At the time we weren't much impressed with this chap's grisly profession—our own profession being not a whit less grisly, in our view—but later, while lunching reluctantly in a public restaurant, we fell to brooding on the appalling difficulties of the analyst's art.

How nowadays (we asked ourselves gloomily, pushing away the alleged *gigot forcé*) can such a chap tell if a person has been deliberately murdered or merely died from natural causes through eating modern food?

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PILSNER

BRIDGE

By YARBOROUGH

When in doubt it is better to make an opening bid than to pass because it is an advantage to attack. A pass on a borderline hand is too discouraging. Consider these two hands:

SOUTH (dealer). NORTH.

S A K Q 10	S x x
H K 9 x x	H A x
D 9 x x	D K Q x
C J x	C A K Q x x x

A Slam bid in No-trumps or Clubs was missed in a tournament on these hands at those tables where South did not open the bidding (with One Spade).

Here is an even more interesting example from the same tournament:

SOUTH (dealer). NORTH.

S A. K. x x	S 9 x x x x
H J x	H x
D Q x x x	D K x
C Q 9 x	C A J x x x

West held—Spades: Q, x; Hearts: A, x, x, x, x, x; Diamonds: A, x; Clubs: K, 10.

At one table South opened with One Spade, West bid Three Hearts, and North Four Spades, closing the bidding. West underled a small Diamond from A, x, and twelve tricks were made. In any case eleven tricks could have been made. At another table South passed, West bid Two Hearts. South passed and West bid Four Hearts, closing the bidding. He made nine tricks only, losing a small penalty. South and North on game-going values passed throughout at this table. South's pass as dealer was impossible to remedy later. This pass had such a discouraging effect on North that the latter did not risk an overcall of One Spade over West's One Heart. With his two-suit distribution he should have been more enterprising. Shaded early bids are on the whole just as remunerative as shaded later bids are costly. It is the rebid, not the early bid, which does the damage.

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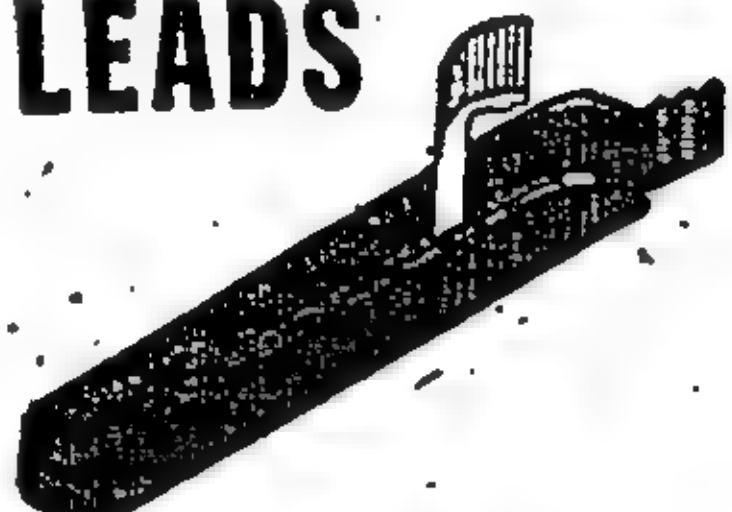
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APB.

New Books

A recent public opinion poll on reading showed that more than half the people questioned did not read anything at all, and three out of every four of the remainder only read fiction. Professor C.E.M. Joad, asked his opinion of the reading habits of the English, replies:—

"Taken by and large, the English will do anything rather than read—it takes a major war involving incarceration in air raid shelters to make most people read anything at all—if they do read, they will do anything rather than buy the books they read—"What about giving her a book for her birthday?" "No. I wouldn't do that. She's got one already."

Put Matter To The Test

The figures, of course, suggest that I am wrong, since out of every 100 questioned over 40 said that they were reading some sort of book. I don't believe it. I don't believe the reading figure is one in 100. Indeed, I once put the matter to the test.

It was towards the end of the war and I was in a train travelling from Edinburgh to London. It is an eight-hour journey, and the train, already two hours late, was crowded with soldiers.

They had long ago exhausted the rather meagre resources of one another's conversation; they had long come to the end of the rather slender delights of looking out of the window and there they sat hour after hour, bored and low, punctuating their boredom by occasionally emitting a dreary sound called whistling, and to not one in 100 did it occur to relieve it by taking out a book. "You're exaggerating as usual," I said to myself. I decided to make a count.

I made my way up the train to see how many people I could find before I came across my first book reader, taking in my survey both officers and other ranks, that is to say, both presumably educated and presumably not so educated. I was right. The first book reader was number 104, and he was reading "No Orchids for Miss Blandish".

That's it. If by some chance an Englishman is found to be reading anything, you can bet your boots it will be a novel. What sort of novel? Answer a novel about crime or love. Even the public opinion poll answers confessed that five women read novels for every one who read anything else.

A Diagram of Construction

I wonder if the women know how the novels are put together. I talked a few years ago to one of the most popular fiction writers in the country—wild horses wouldn't drag her name from me.

She took me up to her workroom, and pointed to the wall, on which hung a diagram on the basis of which she constructed her novels. It consisted of three vertical lines running down a page; left line stood for hero, right line for heroine, centre line for something that kept them apart.

The centre line might be difference of religion, or difference of social class, or objections on the part of her parents, or objections on the part of his, or difference of race, or another man or another woman—indeed, the only variation between one novel and another was the variation in the nature of that for which the middle line stood—but whatever the middle line did stand for, it had to end before the two outside lines, which then converged at the bottom of the page.

That was the general scheme. There were a number of subsidiary rules. For example, the heroine must never be exactly described; she must, of course, be beautiful, graceful, lissom, and all that; she might even be blonde or brunette, but her features must never be etched in with such detail

that it would be impossible for a woman reader to read herself into her.

Again, her name must not be so out of the way that no woman could possibly have it—it mustn't be Ermynde, or Anthea, or Persenphone—so common that no woman could possibly want to have it—that is to say, it mustn't be Annie. (There were subsidiary rules, too, for male readers, but sex loyalty prevents me from saying what they were).

Now, that is how the stuff which goes into most people's heads is concocted, and as long as we pay the dentist who fills our teeth more than most of the novelists who fill our heads, that is how it will continue to be concocted.

PECTORIS AND CORONARY OCCLUSION

by Peter J. Steincrohn, M.D.

Published by Doubleday & Co.—\$15.

In this book a doctor takes some of the free hours in an active medical practice to talk with you about two prevalent forms of coronary heart disease and what you can do about them. He writes because he has seen the great need and believes that a patient who understands even a little about the disease is better able to co-operate with his doctor and so establish the right all important doctor-patient relationship.

Dr. Steincrohn tells something of the progress made in research on angina pectoris and coronary occlusion, explains what each is and how it stems from hardening of the arteries; he tells the symptoms, describes treatment warns of incorrect or halfway diagnoses. He shows an awareness of what makes a difficult patient, and of ways in which his family, with the best intentions, may do the patient active harm. He anticipates many of the specific questions that will occur to you: Can I drive the car? What about tobacco—alcohol? How many pillows? Sleep? Coffee? Bathing? Climate? Et cetera.

It is a dramatic and arresting book, as it deals with life and possible sudden death. It is an optimistic book, showing how to face truth with courage and adjust to a required regimen for prolonging and saving life.

MOLECULES AGAINST MICROBES

by E. S. Duthie M.B. Ph.D.

Published by Sigma Books Ltd.—\$6.

In the past twenty years tremendous advances have been made in the treatment of infections caused by protozoa and bacteria through the discovery of powerful drugs, capable of destroying them in the living body without damage to the patient. There is as yet no complete account either of the properties of these drugs or of the events which led to their discovery, written in language suitable for the layman.

In order to describe the nature of the problems successfully solved by the joint efforts of bacteriologists, biologists and chemists it has been necessary to give a short account of the various agents which cause disease, with a brief description of the chemistry of organic compounds. The drugs described consist of both those used in the treatment of various tropical infections such as malaria, and the better known drugs of the sulphonamide series (M & B etc.) and penicillin. In all cases an attempt is made to trace their development: historically while in the case of sulphonamides and penicillin their use in civilian and war medicine is described.

BRIEF REVIEWS

A Quater Bag of Bones by Anthony Webb (Harran 8s 6d published M. Day.)

Another "Mr. Pendlebury" book. Fanned by Inspector Waastaff, the detective's sleuth hunches through once again to the solution of a mystery.

These Were the Nights by James Agate (Hutchins 7s 15s.)

A critical study of the English novel from 1820 to 1906 in the form of an anthology of theatrical criticism selected by the late James Agate. The illustrations alone would make the book worth buying.

CHILDBIRTH WITHOUT FEAR

by G. D. Read, M.A., M.D.

Published by Harper & Bros.—\$16.50.

Expectant mothers to whom this book is addressed will find it a source of invaluable aid and encouragement. Physicians, nurses and psychologists will also read it with great interest for the light it throws on a major human problem that science has not yet solved to its satisfaction. It is especially timely in these days of crisis when the services of doctors and nurses are at a premium. Childbirth Without Fear discusses the anatomy, physiology and psychology of birth, emphasizing the emotional and mental aspects.

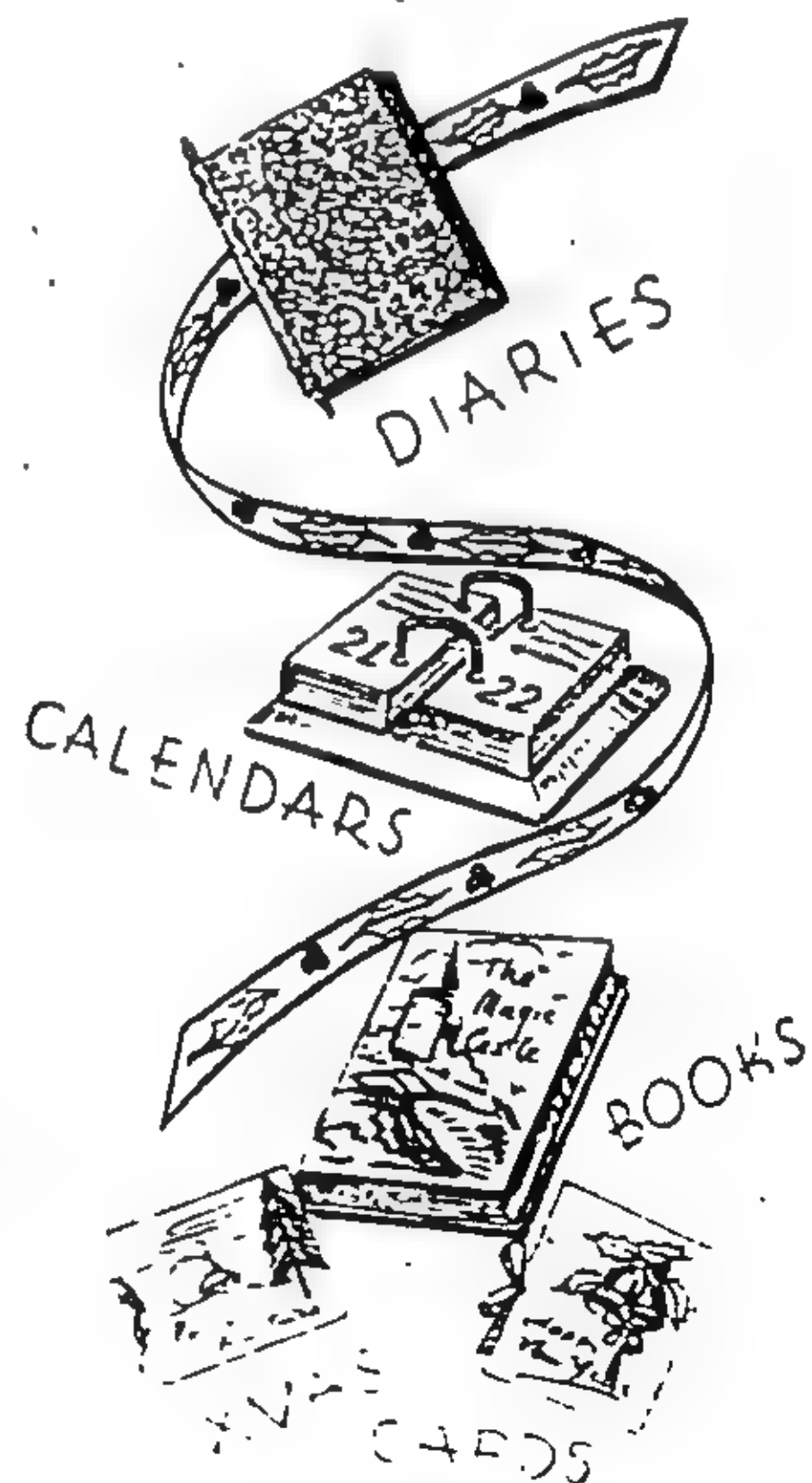
This provocative book challenges the age-old belief that children are necessarily "brought forth in pain." Dr. Dick Read believes that childbirth is the most rewarding adventure possible to a woman and that she should be taught to look forward to it with joy. Education and preparation during the months of pregnancy, he says, will build a relaxed mind and body that will materially lessen the discomforts of labour. Fear is the arch-enemy of childbirth because it creates tension, and tension in turn increases pain. By doing away with fear through understanding and knowledge birth will become the natural, comparatively painless function Nature intended it to be.

The House by the Sea by Jon Godden (Michael Joseph: 280pp: 9/6).

This first novel by the sister of Rumer Godden, who has already won distinction for herself in the literary world, has unusual power and perception and yet is entirely convincing.

At the outset the story introduces a lonely, middle-aged spinster who buys a house in the Cornish coast. She is a fugitive from life and people with no companion but a dog and surrounded by only a few mementoes. One night her solitude, so safe and untroubled, is shattered by the intrusion of a second fugitive, an American soldier who has committed two murders and is on the run. She nurses and befriends the young deserter and, despite his apparent suspicions, comes to cherish him.

This curious association has a strange, delicate beauty, and hovering in the background is the question: Will there have to be a third murder?



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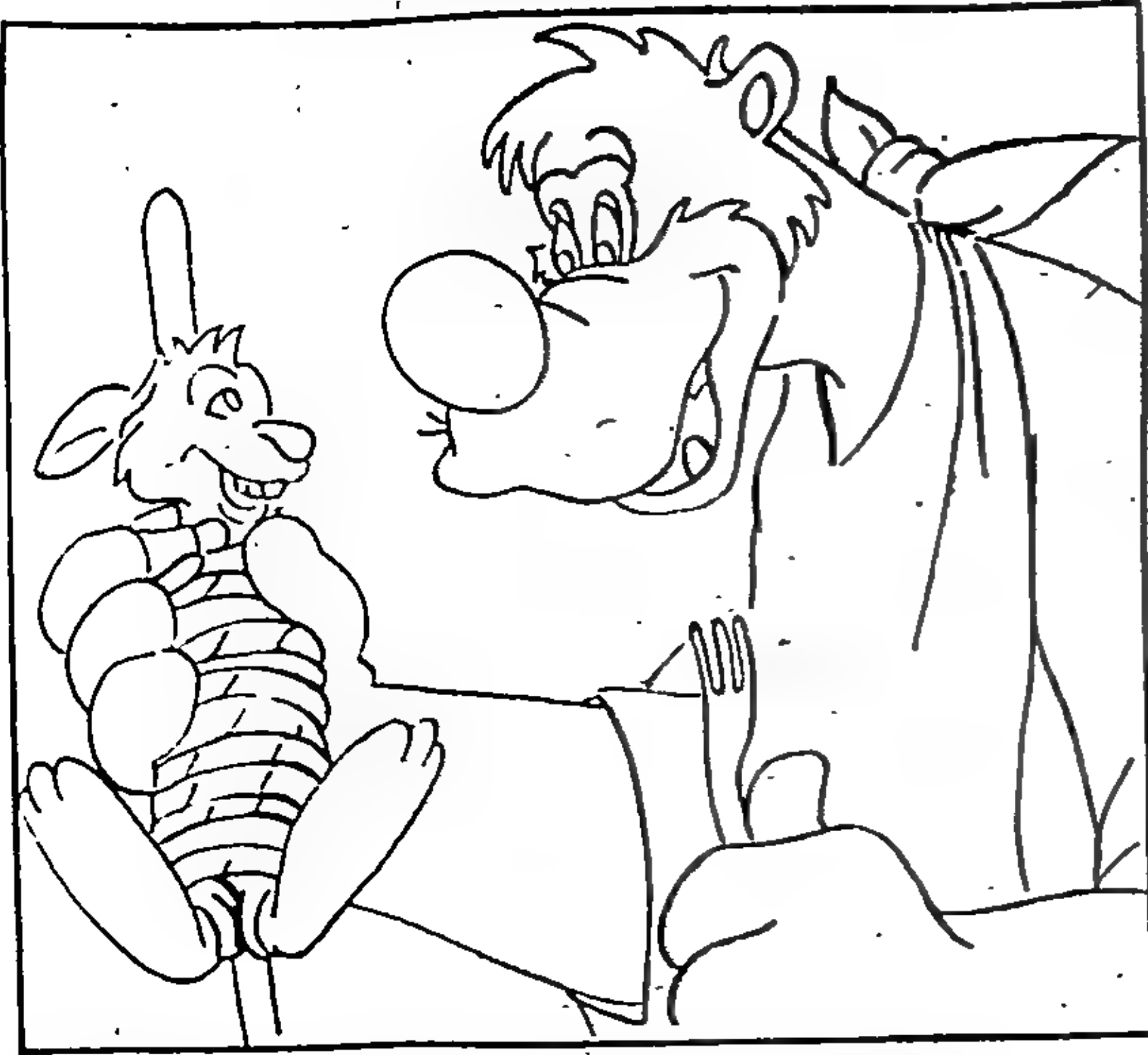
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Children's Page

"SONG OF THE SOUTH" PAINTING COMPETITION

1st PRIZE — Wrist Watch } For each
2nd PRIZE — Pen Set } Competition
and twelve Consolation Prizes



If you are not over twelve this is your Competition. Colour this picture with your paints — or crayons. If you want to, fill in the box at the bottom, and send them both in to the SUNDAY HERALD. (Auntie Vee's decision will be final.)



If you are over twelve and not more than sixteen, this is your Competition. You can use either paints or crayons to colour the picture, and then send it, with the completed box at the bottom, to the SUNDAY HERALD. (Auntie Vee's decision will be final.)

Address your entry to AUNTIE VEE, SUNDAY HERALD, WINDSOR HOUSE, HONG KONG.

NAME

AGE

ADDRESS

JACK FROST

The door was shut, as doors should be,
Before you went to bed last night;
But Jack Frost has got in, you see,
And left your window silver white.

He must have waited till you slept;
And not a single word he spoke,
But pencil'd o'er the panes and crept
Away again, before you woke.

And now you cannot see the hills,
Nor fields that stretch beyond the lane;
But there are fairer things than these
His fingers traced on every pane.

Here are little boats and there
Big ships with sails spread to the breeze;
And yonder, palm trees waving fair
On islands set in glimmering seas.

And butterflies with gauzy wings,
And herds of cows and flocks of sheep;
And fruit and flowers and all the things
You see when you are fast asleep.

For, creeping quietly underneath
The door when all the lights are out,
Jack Frost takes every breath you breathe
And knows the things you dream about.

He paints them on the window pane
In fairy lines with frozen steam;
And when you wake you see again
The lovely things you saw in dream.

(Rayburn Lim (12), Kowloon. Award * * * *)

CLOSING DATE, JAN. 7, 1948

Prizewinners will be notified by letter.

PRIZES PRESENTED

AT SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AT

THE QUEEN'S

AT 11 A.M., SUNDAY, JAN. 11TH.

A special cartoon programme
will be shown at 11.30 a.m.,
at reduced prices.

The names of the prizewinners
will also be announced in the
SUNDAY HERALD on January 11,
1948.

LAST WEEK'S PRIZEWINNERS

Once again, none of the entries
submitted for the Guessing Game
were absolutely correct. But we've
given the prizes to the ones who
came nearest to being right.

Here's the correct solution: A for
Aeroplane; B for Book; C for Choco-
late; D for Doll; E for Electric Torch;
F for Fairy.

Double tickets for "Song of the
South" go to:

Ronald P. Brown (10),
40, Blue Pool Road,
2nd Floor,
Hong Kong.

Reginald Brown (9),
4 Rutland Guardant,
Kowloon Tong.

Geraldo Moronha,
1 Rutland Guardant,
Kowloon Tong.

Double tickets for "Song of the
South" have also been won by the
following, in the Up-to-Sixteen
Drawing Competition:

Vlacheslav Atroshenko (12),
6 Bowen Road,
Hong Kong.

Henry Hamid (14),
Tunglo Wan Road,
No. 114, 2nd Floor,
Hong Kong.

Rachel Phoon (14),
9 Bay View Mansions,
Causeway Bay,
Hong Kong.

SMOKEY

Smokey was a little cat,
Her fur was soft and gray.
She never yet had caught a rat,
But said she would, one day.

Her mother was a coal-black cat,
Her father was a tabby;
But Smokey said, "I'm not like that."
She thought the rest were shabby.

One day, while she was in the house,
Lapping up her milk,
Across the floor a little mouse
Ran with a piece of silk.

Smokey lay quite still and prone
Waiting for her prey;
That mouse—could he have only
known
He'd never get away!

Smokey looked so quiet and meek—
The little mouse crept near;
At once there came a muffled
squeak,
And no more could you hear!

Smokey walked about the house
More proud than I can say;
For she had caught the little mouse,
She said she would, one day.

(William Higgs (11½), Hong Kong.
Award * * * *)

MYSTERY PRIZE

C. F. M. Curtis	.....
Veronica Hounsell	.....
Francis Basto	.....
Coralie Gilbert	.....
George B. Mason	.....
Robert Medina	.....
Edith Mason	.....
Suzanne Hewson	.....
William Higgs	.....
Rayburn Lim	.....

All these boys and girls have had
their contributions published in the
Children's Page. When they have
been awarded ten stars they will re-
ceive their prize—a Mystery Prize!

Why don't you try for the Mystery
Prize next week? There's no age
limit—all you do is send in your
name, age and address with your
entry.

*I wish you all a
very happy
New Year.
Auntie Vee.*

Our Serial Story

THREE FOR LUCK

MAJOR MIKE SULLIVAN, ex-policeman, who became a war hero, meets

ARTHUR MAYOR (millionaire racehorse owner) on the ship from Dublin to Liverpool. Mike has seen Mayor talking to

"DIAMOND" HOTCHKISS, a racing crook. He warns Mayor against him. At Liverpool an attempt is made to kill

HAPPY MUNSTERMAN. Arthur Mayo's hot favourite for the Guineas and the Derby. An attempt is made to kill Mike (who was watching the horse being unloaded) by pushing him into the dock.

Mike was struggling in the not-so-much water of the dock. A mass of sodden paper and other debris swept across his face, so that he was blinded. He floated gently, not trying to swim, while he cleared it from his eyes.

When he could see again, he found that he had been carried under the ship's stern. Thank heaven she is tied up, he thought. If she had been moving, he would have been chopped to pieces by the propeller.

He had recovered his breath by now. He swam slowly back to the dockside, intending to search for a rope or a ladder. But some instinct warned him, and he suddenly turned away. As he did so, a large object hurtled into the water only a couple of feet from him. He did not see whether it was a stone or a piece of metal. It was so heavy that it sank immediately. In any case, he did not care much what it was. It would have killed him either way. He swam quickly under the stern again, and round to the side of the ship away from the quay. They smooth sides of the hull offered no aid. But farther along the dock was a lighter. To this he made his way, and was able to climb aboard. They he clambered up the rope which tied it to the quay, and was once more on dry land.

Mike did not waste any time attempting to dry himself. He ran back to the point from which he had been pushed into the water. But there was now nobody there.

Even the rope which had interested him so much had gone. That did not surprise him.

He walked over to the still excited crowd round the horsebox. Tom Satterthwaite was there. When he saw Mike, his eyes widened in a mixture of amazement and amusement.

"Well, well," he said, "so you managed to fall into the water."

"Yes," replied Mike. "I managed to fall into the water—with a little help, it's quite easy."

Tom raised his eyebrows.

"Come for a little walk, Tom," Mike continued. "I want to talk to you — quietly."

"Rope Cut"

He led the way to the gang-plank to the ship, and the two went aboard. Mike went down to the purser's cabin. It was empty. Without seeking permission they entered. Mike closed the door.

"Listen, Tom," he began. "There's something funny going on here. I was deliberately pushed into the water just after that horsebox fell. And when I was in the water, somebody hurled a brick or a lump of iron at my head. And I don't take kindly to such treatment. I'm going to find out who did it."

The inspector's face was a study in disbelief struggling with the confidence he had in his friend's sanity.

"Don't look so dubious, Tom," Mike added with a smile. "I've plenty of ideas about why they—whoever they are—wanted me out of the way. You see, I had been examining the rope that broke when the horsebox fell. And, apart from three or four strands

By
**TRIVERS
HUTCHIN**

it had been cut. Just enough had been left to take the initial lift. But whoever did it hoped that it would part before the box was safely on the quayside.

"The crash was probably more spectacular than they expected. But, remember, even a small fall of a few feet would have been enough to endanger a racehorse's legs. So get cracking, my lad. Find out who was in charge of hitching the box on to the crane hook aboard the ship; find out whether the crane man is in the business. The speed with which he put the strain on the rope may have had some effect on when it broke. Find out what horse it was. But most of all, find me the chap who tried to poison me with Mersey dock water. I want a quiet talk with him."

Favourite

The door of the cabin opened and the angry purser entered. He looked disgustedly at the pool of water that had dripped from Mike's clothes on to the carpet.

"Really, Inspector," he began. But before he could get any further Tom had abruptly begun to speak. "Take me down to the hold where the horseboxes are," he said. "I want to speak to the man who was in charge of their unloading at once. Now, man, don't argue..." as the purser opened his mouth to speak. "This is serious. You know me, and you know I don't go on wild-goose chases. And get a steward to help Colonel Sullivan to dry his clothes."

"Major Sullivan or Mr. Sullivan," said Mike wryly. "I was only an acting colonel, substantive major. But I should like to get dry."

"Amazing luck, sir," the steward was saying as Mike dried himself. "That there box—No. 2, it was. It's the one Happy Munsterman was going to be in. But they put Happy Scotsman, Mr. Mayo's old horse that is almost due to retire, into it instead. Munsterman was in box 3. Golly, I'm glad he was, too. I've got ten bob on him for the Derby already. So have millions of others. There's never been such a hot favourite so long before the race. Why, he's down to six to one in the betting before even the Guineas has been run."

Mike let the steward rattle on. An idea was forming in his mind.

He did not know much about racing—not as an expert, anyway. But, like most Irishmen, he had heard of the Irish horse that had swept the board as a two-year-old, and was now considered the hottest certainty ever entered for the Derby. (Although, until the steward mentioned it, he would not have remembered its name; he had only come home from overseas in the last fortnight.)

It seemed to him possible that there might be people who would be very glad to see such a horse out of the way. He did not for one moment think that such people would do their own dirty work. But no doubt they could find somebody who.....

He suddenly stopped dead. The towel with which he had been rubbing himself motionless in his hand; his eyes narrowing in thought. The steward stared at him; but he did not realise that. His thoughts were far away for a moment.

He was thinking of a little swarthy

man in a bar. In the bar of this very ship. A little man who was ready to organise any dirty work. From selling stolen goods to "protecting" bookmakers who did not really want his aid—all at a price.

And Diamond Hotchkiss had been ingratiating himself with Arthur Mayo the night before.

He shrugged his shoulders. It was pretty thin, he admitted. But, well, he thought he would seek out Mr. Arthur Mayo again and find out the subject of his conversation with Diamond.

When he was dried and clad in a borrowed suit some sizes too small for him, he made his way back on deck. There he spied Tom engaged in excited conversation with the purser and a man who looked like a foreman stevedore.

"Here, Mike," Satterthwaite called. "Here's a funny thing. We can't find the man who was slinging those horseboxes. This is Mr. Tenkinson, who's in charge of the gang. He can't make out what's happened to him. Says he was here half an hour ago and hasn't been seen since. None of the other men working in the hold can remember when they last saw him. But they were all busy, so that's not surprising."

"Nothing is surprising at the moment," said Mike quietly. "The man is either on the run by now, or....."

A Murder

He did not finish his sentence. Tom Satterthwaite gave him a quick glance, and turned on his heel to hurry back to the hold.

The others followed him. The detective-inspector began a careful search among the bales of merchandise. Mike went over to the little knot of dockers. "Did any of you actually see the sling put on that horsebox?" he asked.

"We were working at the other end of the hold, mate," one replied. "Billy Flood was in charge of slinging the boxes. But he's not here just now. They're looking for him."

Mike heard a cry from Tom. "I think they've found him," he said sombrely.

Tom had found Billy Flood—dead behind a pile of sides of bacon a few yards from the one remaining horsebox in the hold. His head had been beaten in by some heavy weapon. Poor Billy Flood would unload no more racehorses.

Mike withdrew from the confusion which followed. It was Tom's job now, he felt, and he did not want to be in the way.

He went ashore and found a taxi back to his hotel, where he changed into his own clothes again. Then he walked to the Adelphi Hotel, in the hope that Mayo might be staying there.

No Reply

It soon became clear that it was not easy to interview Mayo. He was told "Mr. Mayo is not available" when he phoned up to his room. Mike persisted, but the voice at the other end—a girl's—was adamant.

"Now, look here, young woman," said Mike at last. "I don't know whether you're telling the truth or not, but at least tell Mr. Mayo when he comes in that I'm going to see him. Tell him that if I don't he'll be sorry, because his horse Happy Munsterman may never get as far as the Derby."

He heard the girl draw in her breath sharply.

"Wait a moment down there," she said at last. "I'll phone you back."

She rang off abruptly. Mike paced paced up and down the hotel foyer. The girl had a very nice voice, he thought. Sounded interesting. Old Man Mayo picked nice secretaries, it seemed.

After he had waited for 15 minutes he decided to phone up to Mayo's room again. But this time he was told that there was no reply.

Mike was determined to see the millionaire racehorse owner, in spite of the girl secretary's failure to ring back to the hotel lobby to him.

He made up his mind that he would do so even if it meant waiting all day—he presumed Mayo would have to come down from his room some time or other.

He took a seat in the lounge from



says
Merle Oberon

Screen star of UNIVERSAL PICTURES
starring in the Technicolor film
"NIGHT IN PARADISE"

Kolynos Dental Cream helps clean your teeth quickly and thoroughly. See how fragrantly fresh its abundant, pleasant-tasting foam leaves your mouth and breath! And all with just a half-inch on the brush! Kolynos...

cleans...tastes good... is economical!



A breath that's fresh—a dazzling smile. The two are always quite in style.

Enjoy them both the pleasant way! By using Kolynos twice a day!



which he could keep an eye on the main door, and ordered himself a drink.

The Girl

He wondered if he could identify the girl from her voice. But he had little hope. He remembered that once, in his youth, he had made a blind date with a telephone operator with an attractive voice. She had turned out to weigh more than he did and to be well over 40.

There was one girl, however, whom he vaguely hoped might be the secretary. She had come into the lounge a few minutes after him, and was also seated at a table which overlooked the foyer.

MORE NEXT WEEK

THE SUN

The sun, like water and air is so much a part of our natural environment that few people realize its indispensability and omnipresence even to the lowest form of life. The majority of people know that sunshine is healthy and that in some almost mystical ways it imparts a certain form of vitamin to the human body. They are very often told that children who grow up in an atmosphere of insufficient sunshine, develop rickets, a malformation of bone structure which impairs their rigid posture. Our ladies well know that when their fair skins are exposed to the rays of the sun, they tend to tan, a fact which they use very much to their advantage. And they also know by painful experience that after over-exposure burns would result, which render the skin sensitive and pinkish, with the woeeful result of having them peeled off.

All these facts about the sun are very familiar to us, but if we delve back into our experiences and past observations, we come up with some interesting aspects of the sun which are not so apparent, but much more revealing and thought provoking. If we ever indulge in gardening, we remember that when we plant a tree or a pot or flowers they tend to grow towards the sun. If we are housewives, we recall that when certain fabrics are exposed to the sun their colours fade. We have also observed that our pet animals bask under the sun as much as opportunity offers. The truth of course, is that all animals and vegetation need radiant energy from the sun to sustain life and to maintain a healthy equilibrium. They store up radiant energy from the sun in various forms. Animals store it up in their skins and food, while plants absorb them in their green colouring matter, known as chlorophyll. Indeed, radiant

Health Page

energy from the sun is such a basic element of life itself, that every living cell in our body is an unique machine of transformer of energy which continually takes care of an influx of energy brought to it from without. As Science traces life back to its origin, very simple conditions are met. From the earth comes mineral salts, from the air comes oxygen, nitrogen and carbon dioxide, from the sun comes energy. Add water to these simple elements and life materializes. So in the physical, chemical and biological process of life, energy from the sun stands out as the prime ingredient.

Sunlight-Therapy

Knowing that sunlight plays such a gargantuan part in the formation of life itself, it is untenable to think that after its materialization, sunlight will recede back to a position of no significance. From our own experience, we know that to be rid of mould, we expose them to the rays of the sun. Primitive beings expose their wounds to them, thus anticipating modern germicidal actions of ultra-violet rays for thousands of years. In the medical field, radiant energy from the sun did not come to its own even after the discovery of ultraviolet rays in 1800, until almost a century later when scientific data proved that ultra-violet energy near the short-wave limit of the solar spectrum was particularly effective in certain aspects of health and disease. Towards the last century however, rapid progress was made in the development of therapeutic methods and techniques, establishing successes in the treatment of anemia, rickets, chronic ulcers, tuberculosis of

skin, bones, joints and glands with ultraviolet rays.

A beam of ordinary sunlight when it hits the earth is composed of many different tiny light waves, which can be separated from the composite light beam and each wave studied. At present, the effects of light waves of longer wave-lengths on living organism, are still not yet thoroughly understood. But others, like ultra-violet and infra-red rays, which are of short wave-lengths, have been accurately measured, analysed and studied. Their effects on living cells have been exhaustively studied in the laboratory. Many of the therapeutic values of these rays in the invisible range, are now well-known by the medical profession, which employs various types of light therapy in curative and preventive medicine.

For the convenience of measurement, a ray of light from the sun is divided into so many Angstrom Units, each Angstrom being one ten-millionth of a millimeter. As was mentioned before, a ray of light is composed of many tiny light waves of varying wave-lengths, stretching from 10×10^6 Angstrom, which is the infra-rays from radio active substances to 10×10^8 Angstrom, which is the invisible infra-red rays. Ultra-violet rays, which is one sort of many types of rays composing a beam of sunlight and which is responsible for tanning, health maintenance and germicidal action, stretch from 2000 Angstrom to 3500 Angstrom. Actually, ultra-violet rays from sunlight almost never come below 2900 Angstrom. And the maximum effects for germ-killing action of ultra-violet rays is in the neighbourhood of 2600 Angstrom, although it definitely extends to the 3100 Angstrom region. Therefore, any man-made apparatus which emits ultra-violet rays in the neighbourhood of 2600 Angstrom is actually superior to the sun in its germicidal action. And in this respect at least, man has challenged the sun and won successfully.

Production of vitamin D by ultra-violet rays is most effective in wave-length of 3100 Angstrom. These rays activate substances present in foods and in the human skins known as "sterols," to produce natural vitamin D, which prevents and cures rickets by promoting good bone formation where adequate calcium and phosphorus are present. As such, its application to growing children is most important. In addition, skin affections also respond well to ultra-violet rays of this particular range. As ultra-violet rays are not transparent to ordinary glass, the defects of glass window is that although it transmits visible light rays and invisible infra-red rays, it tends to shut off all beneficial ultra-violet rays, which is so essential to health maintenance. This being the reason, all artificial ultra-violet rays lamps are constructed of quartz or some special glass.

Infra-red rays are invisible rays of sunlight, stretching from 8000 Angstrom to well over 20,000 Angstrom. These rays penetrate deeply into bodily tissues, where heat is distributed by the blood circulating through the skin. Local application of these rays produces dilation of blood vessels and an increase of rate of blood flow. The results are liberal perspiration, cleansing of skin, stimulation of circulatory process and possible other benefits. The rays also cause increase of local metabolic activity. Therapeutic treatment of all types of rheumatism and aching muscles with these rays is recommended. Infra-red rays in the neighbourhood of 1100 Angstrom causes the maximum bodily penetration and this is the range which artificial infra-red lamps are constructed.

Instead of depending on the sun to provide ultra-violet rays and infra-red rays for healthful irradiation of the human body, which at times is neither convenient nor even obtainable at certain seasons of the year, exhaustive experiments in laboratories have managed to duplicate artificially the sun by producing ultra-violet rays and infra-red rays from mechanical means. Carbon arcs and Quartz mercury arcs lamps are so constructed that the

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Their Suggestions for the NEW YEAR

FOR LADIES:

- * Caron Perfume
- * Jean Patou
- * Lanin
- * Coty
- * Chanel
- * Joy

etc.

plus

A Wide Range of Gay, and attractive Toilet Sets.

FOR MEN:

- * Seaforth Gentlemen's Set
- * Shaving Brush
- * Safety Razor
- * Lavender Water, etc.

ultra-violet rays emitted are of the maximum effects for tanning and the production of vitamin D, thus challenging the sun for therapeutic successes. As often as not, ultra-violet rays lamps are combined with tungsten filaments, which when heated to a degree produce infra-red rays of the Angstrom units, which provides for maximum heat penetration of the body. This combined ultra-violet rays and infra-red rays lamp is recommended for winter irradiation and especially to combat rheumatism induced by the humidity of climate.

Germicidal Lamps

During the present century an increasing amount of research has been devoted to the problem of ascertaining the germicidal effectiveness of ultra-violet energy of various wave-lengths. It is now generally accepted as a fact that nearly all bacteria may be killed or attenuated by ultra-violet energy of certain wave-lengths, but that different species vary considerably in their resistivity or rate of destruction.

Ultra-violet rays and infra-red rays of a natural source from the sun are fortunately available to the colony's inhabitants abundantly in the summer season, it is a pity that so few people attempt to take advantage of it. In winter, when the sun is stingy with ultra-violet and infra-red rays, there are artificial sources in the form of ultra-violet & infra-red rays lamps available in the market for who ever desire to make use of them.

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PIGMY CARTOON

A vivid illustration of the state of our cartoonist's mind yesterday.

ARE YOU GOOD AT CONVERSATION?

Do you tend to contradict? Are you inclined to be too emphatic? Do you wisely avoid discussing your health, troubles, wife or husband? In December Reader's Digest—now on sale—Gelett Burgess lists 10 faults that mar most of our talk. Get your copy today. Read how you can make your conversation more agreeable and interesting.

(Condensed from Your Life)

Laughter—the best medicine. "I want a divorce," the lady said. "On what grounds?" asked her attorney. She replied she felt her husband was not faithful. "What makes you think so?" She replied, "I doubt he's the father of my child." Here are 10 amusing stories.

Thousands of needless operations take place yearly, due to over-zealous or mercenary doctors, faulty diagnosis, and patients' morbid desire to be cut open, says Albert Deutsch. Shocking facts (our mortality after ordinary operations tops any civilized country)...and how patients can be safeguarded.

(Condensed from Woman's Home Companion)

It pays to increase your word power. Does "per se" mean at once, by your leave, by itself, or for this reason? Adding new words to your vocabulary increases your self-confidence, your influence—even your earning power. Try this word quiz. It's fun to do and will pay you dividends.

In this issue—38 articles of lasting interest, selected from leading magazines and current books, and condensed to save your time.

GET THE DECEMBER

Reader's Digest

NOW ON NEWSSTANDS

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THE NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE LTD.

Windsor House.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE ANSWERS

1. Princess Margaret; The Duke of Gloucester; Prince William of Gloucester; Prince Richard of Gloucester; Duke of Kent.
2. Six counties: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Tyrone.
3. June 12.
4. The Iles du Salut is a group of islands off French Guiana, comprising St. Joseph, Ile Royal, and Ile du Diable. Ile du Diable (Devil's Island) gained an infamous reputation as a penal colony during the nineteenth century.
5. Llullaillaco, in Chile (17,000 ft.).
6. Some of the major planets: Mercury, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto, The Moon.
7. Caught you—There is no such thing as half a hole.

Musical World

ZBW PROMS

Three works are being presented by ZBW in its "Proms" concert tonight—Vivaldi's "Concerto Grosso, Op. 3, No. 11"; Beethoven's "Concerto No. 4 in G Major"; and Moussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition."

Of the three, the Beethoven concerto is the major work, for it is one of his greatest compositions, written during his so-called Second Period, when he was beginning to attain the self-expression for which he had been striving. The first movement, in a joyous mood, opens not with an orchestral tutti but a simple statement by the piano of the chief subject. The second movement is one of the most perfect examples of dialogue between solo instrument and orchestra ever written.

The last movement has been so touched with the qualities of Beethoven's genius that it possesses in full and wonderful measure qualities which one finds all too rarely in third movements. I have not yet heard this particular recording and it will be interesting to see how Schnabel re-acts to Beethoven's warning about the cadenza in the final movement—"Let it be short." A long cadenza spoils the balance.

Vivaldi, a violin virtuoso, wrote 12 concertos for this instrument and for a long time it was considered that his sole claim to fame rested on these compositions. More florid than his contemporary Corelli, Vivaldi has been accused of mistaking technical skill for creative faculties. New data regarding his life, and access to more of his works, however, has begun to modify previous misconceptions about a composer who was greatly admired by J. S. Bach—who, indeed, was greatly influenced by him.

Moussorgsky's single great piano work is best known in the form of Ravel's wonderful orchestration of it. Tonight's concert, however, will present Stokowski's version and, possibly for reasons connected with the recording, covers only eight of the original ten pictures. Based on subjects taken from pictures by a celebrated Russian architect, Victor Hartmann, it was written as a tribute to the memory of his friend. Although Moussorgsky was a prolific composer, few of his works have stood the test of time (so far, anyway). Apart from his songs—led by "Song of the Flea"—the only other works more or less automatically associated with his name are the two operas, "Boris Goudonov" and "Khovantchina," and the tone-poem "Night on Bare Mountain."

COMPETITION

An international competition for pianists for the "Bedrich Smetana Prize," set up in honour of the Czech composer, will be held in Prague next May in connection with the spring music festival.

The competition is open to pianists of any nationality between the ages of 15 and 35. Five prizes will be awarded, consisting respectively of 45,000, 25,000, 15,000, 10,000 and 5,000 Czech crowns. The crown is quoted at about 10 cents in Hong Kong currency, which puts the first prize at about H.K.\$4,500.

In addition to the prize money, the winner will appear in concerts of the Prague International music festival next Spring.

OPERA

The first performance of a Swedish opera—"Genoveva," by Natanael Berg—has been given in the Royal Opera House, Stockholm. The opera is based on the work of the same name by the German dramatist Friedrich Hebbel.

A report from Stockholm says that Gosta Bjoerling—younger brother of Jussi Bjoerling, the Metropolitan Opera tenor—was warmly praised by the critics for his performance in the leading role.

RECORD

Reference on this page last week to the fact that Betty Drown has accompanied Isobel Baillie reminds me that Columbia issued a recording in September which Bella made of Haydn's "On Mighty Pens" (from "The Creation"), with the Philharmonic Orchestra under George Weldon. The record is DX1392, but I have not yet had an opportunity of hearing it.

Isobel Baillie first sang in "The Messiah" at the age of 18. Of Scottish birth, she was brought up in Manchester, and studied singing there with Madame Sadler-Fogg and later with Somma at Milan. A lyric soprano, she sang at concerts given under the auspices of the Royal Philharmonic Society in 1928, 1937, 1940 and 1942, while in 1933 she achieved the distinction of being the first British artist to sing in the Hollywood Bowl.

One of her most treasured possessions is a postcard which came to her from Sweden after a broadcast of a Halle concert. Written in broken English by an admirer who did not know her name, it was addressed, quite simply, to "The English Nightingale" who sang on that particular date.

Commenting on her voice in "Grove," Richard Capell says:—"The character of Miss Baillie's singing and her fine technique will be indicated if it is said that her performance in Brahms' Requiem has hardly been matched in her time. The verbal factor plays a somewhat effaced role in her singing, but the compensation is a radiant quality of sound faultlessly sustained."

STRAVINSKY

A dead composer can't do much about the pirating or "adapting" of one of his melodies by a Tin Pan Alley songwriter as the frame work for some slushy nonsense about an absent or otherwise untrue lover, sex unspecified. Even those who are still living find it difficult at times to restrain the misguided enthusiasm of a dance band. Grieg is reported to have walked out on one tactless band which struck up a "swing-version" of his Valse Triste when he entered a restaurant.

To the best of my knowledge, however, Stravinsky is the only modern composer of any note who has decided to cooperate with the inevitable. The latest news is that he has rearranged part of his "Fire Bird" suite into a slow fox-trot entitled "Summer Moon"—which, presumably, some goon will now croon. The reason for this is, of course, a financial one—but an unusual one.

Before he took out American papers, Stravinsky found that the American copyright laws were not exactly to the liking of Russian immigrants. Soviet Russia does not recognise the music copyrights of other countries, and so the latter, in retaliation, frequently "overlook" the little matter of royalty payments to Russian composers.

Two years ago, Stravinsky became an American citizen. At the suggestion of Mr. Lou Levy, president of the Leeds Music Corporation, he then wrote a new arrangement of "Fire Bird" with "one or two changes maybe," and lo! he can now copyright it, record it and collect the royalties which didn't always come in on the original ballet music.

This is reported by Associated Press in the following terms:—"Igor Stravinsky, idol of the long-hair music set, has adopted the torch-song technique and will soon vie with 'bop' and 'bloop-beep' for the juke-box trade." Played, no doubt, by Beecham Meecham and his Basin Street Bleaters.

Footnote:—Decca have made a first-class recording (K 1574-76) of the original "Fire Bird" suite and "Dance of the Princesses" by the London Philharmonic (Ernest Ansermet conducting).

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GRAM CONCERT

An opportunity to hear a seldom-played piece of music—though it has been broadcast from ZBW at least once since the war—will be provided by the Gramophone Section of the Sino-British Club Music Group on Tuesday (Jan. 6th). This is Avshalomoff's "Piano Concerto."

This work was first performed in Shanghai (where this recording was made). Before the war, Avshalomoff was one of the leaders of that splendid community of White Russians who helped Shanghai attain a standard of musical consciousness that Hong Kong has never even dared to dream about. Although this concerto is based on Chinese themes, the music itself is essentially Western.

As at the first performance, Avshalomoff himself conducts the Shanghai Municipal Orchestra from the piano in this recording. I doubt if Avshalomoff himself would say it is great music; but it is pleasantly melodic, not to say interesting.

The rest of the gramophone concert, arranged and compered by Mr. A Simpson, will consist of:—"Introduction and Rondo-Capriccioso," by Saint-Saens (Helfets and the London Philharmonic); Walton's "Fantasia on a Theme of Thalès"; Bizet's "Carmen," a suite splendidly recorded by Beecham and the London Philharmonic; and Prokofiev's "Classical Symphony."

The time: 9.15 p.m., Jan. 6th; the place: Helena May Institute, Garden Road.

QUEEN'S and ALHAMBRA OPENS NEW YEAR'S DAY

HERE THEY ARE!

GARY COOPER

as White Hat, the gambler

INGRID BERGMAN

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TRUNK**
WARNER'S
BIGGEST!

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LATEST!

Talking about Films

Hard-boiled technicians who think of film stars as "small fry" were reverently taking books to be autographed by a short, elderly man in a well-worn sports jacket at Shepherd's Bush film studios.

Willie Somerset Maugham, greatest short-story writer in English, was making his first screen appearance, and even the carpenters were impressed. The great Sydney Box gave him a champagne luncheon and called him "Sir." Rightly.

Maugham, at 73, had agreed to provide the introduction and continuity on the film treatment of five of his short stories—"Allen Corn," "The Colonel's Lady," "The Sanatorium," "The Kite," and "The Facts of Life"—for a three-hour film entertainment under the title of "Quintet."

Bowed on to the set by Producer Tony Darnborough and technicians, Maugham looked round at a replica of his south of France villa and said: "You must have burgled my house."

Down to details of an African paper knife and a lectern on which reposed a volume of the Oxford Dictionary—Maugham's everlasting stand-by—the set was a perfect copy of his own house.

The novelist felt at home and, without make-up, did his stuff. On the first day's "shooting" he recorded 9½ minutes of film "take." Now, the average from most stars is two to three minutes. The studio thought he was wonderful. After looking at the "rushes," Maugham himself said: "I am mortified."

He told me that he had written his last novel, "Catalina," to be published in August. What next? "I might become a film star," he said, laughing.

Footnote: Most of the Maugham novels have been filmed. His best-seller, "The Razor's Edge," sold 3,000,000 in the U.S., 270,000 here. His five short stories are being adapted for the screen by R. C. ("Journey's End") Sherri.

SMUGNESS OUT

When 1947 was a puling, teething babe, those of us who were interested in the British motion-picture industry were feeling quite smug about the quality of British pictures.

Let 1947 be a lesson to us. This year we produced so many films of poor quality, and so many mediocre pot-boilers, that quite a number of the sneers which have been crossing the Atlantic of late have doubtless been earned. That Hollywood, too, has churned out at fat proportion of rubbish should be no consolation to us.

While I Live, which has just had its London premiere, is certainly not a film likely to boost prestige. Good artists like Tom Walls, Sonia Dresdel and Pat Burke are thrown away in stuff like this.

It is a story about a woman who imagines a stranger in her house to be the reincarnated spirit of her sister, Olwen, a pianist, who fell to her death over the Cornish cliffs while she was walking in her sleep some twenty-five years before.

The stranger also thinks it highly probable that she is Olwen, and you may consider that such an unusual set of circumstances might well result in a very unusual film.

It doesn't. Complications in the plot are smoothed out in exactly the way you expect them to be smoothed out, and if you care to lay a small wager on how the yarn will end the chances are extremely high in your favour.

The film is based on a play, "This Same Garden," by Robert Bell. Pure melodrama, its treatment is as unimaginative as a dog's dinner.

"Mrs. Fitzherbert." Even less likely to do her part of good is this supposed story of the love-match between the Prince Regent and Maria Fitzherbert.

For the purpose of pleasing feminine hearts, "Prinny" is herein depicted as a handsome, dashing young gallant, very much like Peter Graves (whom he happens to be). Not until Mrs. Fitz (Joyce Howard) has been parted forever from her royal lover is the famous princely breadbasket permitted to develop into the colossal paunch that used to displace so much sea-water at Brighton in those carefree Regency

days. And the swiftness with which that turn-tum spreads will dismay any female fan of Mr. Graves.

POSSESSED

Following recent trends, Possessed (Warner) presents Joan Crawford in a sombre study of frustration, schizophrenia and murder.

The basic situation is both commonplace and tragic. A woman nursing a neurotic, jealous wife is madly in love with an engineer. He wishes to break away. She is hysterically possessive. At the same time the patient is insanely jealous of the nurse, whom she suspects of designs on her wealthy husband.

The nurse can see how absurd her patient's suspicions are: she cannot see that she herself is following the same dark road to madness.

Her patient's suicide is the turning point. Marriage to her employer does something to restore her confidence, but the return of her lover, and his attentions to her pretty young step-daughter, finally unhinge her. She begins to believe she helped her patient to kill herself; she finds herself increasingly unable to distinguish between reality and phantoms rising from the subconscious.

We will not give away the end. There are one or two improbabilities of plot—the nurse's staying on after her patient's death, for instance, when she knows this will strengthen the suspicions and hatred of the dead woman's daughter. On the whole, though, the disintegration of a mind is uncomfortably realistic, and the story as bleakly convincing as a coroner's inquest.

Miss Crawford, apart from a momentary suggestion of madness too early in the story, and one of her old Fitian hair-dos, gives a powerful performance as the nurse. Van Heflin is just right as the frank, cynical but too brutal lover, and Raymond Massey makes a sympathetic husband.

BRITISH FILM

The reasons "Mrs. Fitzherbert" is uncommonly irritating would make a book.

Mrs. Fitzherbert was a woman of virtue and good sense at a time when those qualities were rare and dowdy. You may see in the Regent one of the most unpleasant cads that ever came to occupy a throne, or you may share Thackeray's estimate: "I look through all his life and recognise, but a bow and a grin. . . . I own I once used to think it would be good sport to pursue him, fasten on him, and pull him down. But now I am ashamed to mount and lay good dogs on, to summon a full field, and then to hunt the poor game."

Either way, their love story would be dull. Tricked out with bogus dialogue and incident it becomes a bore. Did his friends—Sheridan and Fox, for example—have the insolence to address the Regent continually as "Prinny"—and before many witnesses too? Did George III, born and bred in England, speak with a strong German accent? Did the Regent greet the Queen familiarly with "Good evening, Mother"?

Did the Queen, after speaking English 24 years, acquire such colloquialisms as "A boy's best friend is his mother," and at the same time conform strictly to the style of "This wedding to a commoner a thing you cannot do is"? Did—but let's just say the whole thing is a mistake, and let it go at that.

It is fair to add that Peter Graves and Joyce Howard play the Regent and Mrs. Fitzherbert as well as a phoney atmosphere permits and that the production is elaborate and handsome.

SAIGON

In Saigon, their horde of fans will find Alan Ladd and Veronica Lake, elegant and composed, moving smoothly through the rough stuff. Of New Orleans we gladly record an agreeable moment—when the sight of Louis Armstrong reminds how brilliant are his recordings of "Jonah and the Whale" and "Ol' Man Mose." The rest (libel laws being what they are) is silence.

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Fernando BONANOVA
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Current Shows

Queen's—"Song of the South."—Walt Disney, a live-action musical, with animated stories of Uncle Remus. A Must.

King's—"Fiesta."—The svelte Esther Williams in a film which will enhance her popularity.

Central and Alhambra—"The Time, the Place and the Girl."—A straight-out musical with a score of catchy songs. Good entertainment value.

Lee Theatre—"Copacabana."—Mention only two of the stars, Groucho Marx and Carmen Miranda, to place its merits. The place to laugh off a hang-over.

QUIZ ANSWERS

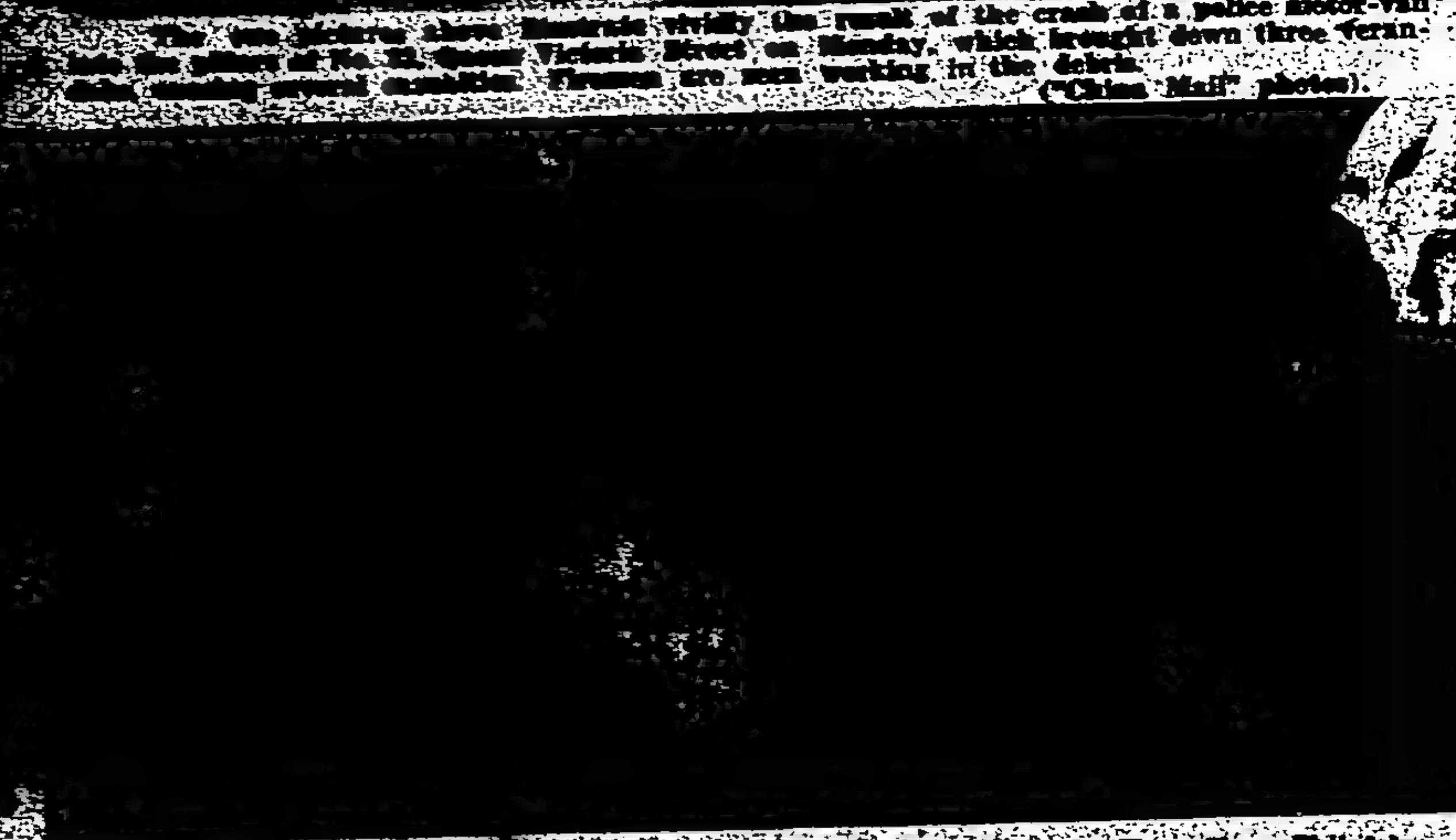
1. General Feng Yu - hsiang. (24.12.47).
2. Enrico de Nicola becomes the first President of Italy. His appointment does away with the ruling family of Italy, the House of Savoy. (24.12.47).
3. Robert ("Young Bob") La Follette (51), a former American Senator and member of the Harriman Committee. (24.12.47).
4. William Allen received a sentence of two years and four months imprisonment with hard labour. (23.12.47).
5. Blausee Mitholz was wrecked by an explosion in an nearby subterranean ammunition dump on December 20. Several people were killed and injured. (22.12.47).
6. Union Jack Club. In Queen's Road, E. (21.12.47).
7. M. Rene Mayer.



Carolyn Jane's First Christmas. (Watson-Gainsborough)



The two pictures above illustrate vividly the result of the crash of a police motor-van into the pillars of No. 22 Queen Victoria Street on Monday, which brought down three terraced houses, several casualties. Firemen are seen working in the debris. ("China Mail" photos).



The above picture shows the occasion of the annual dinner of the Hong Kong Philately Society at which Mr. A. A. G. G. presided. (Whitland Studio).

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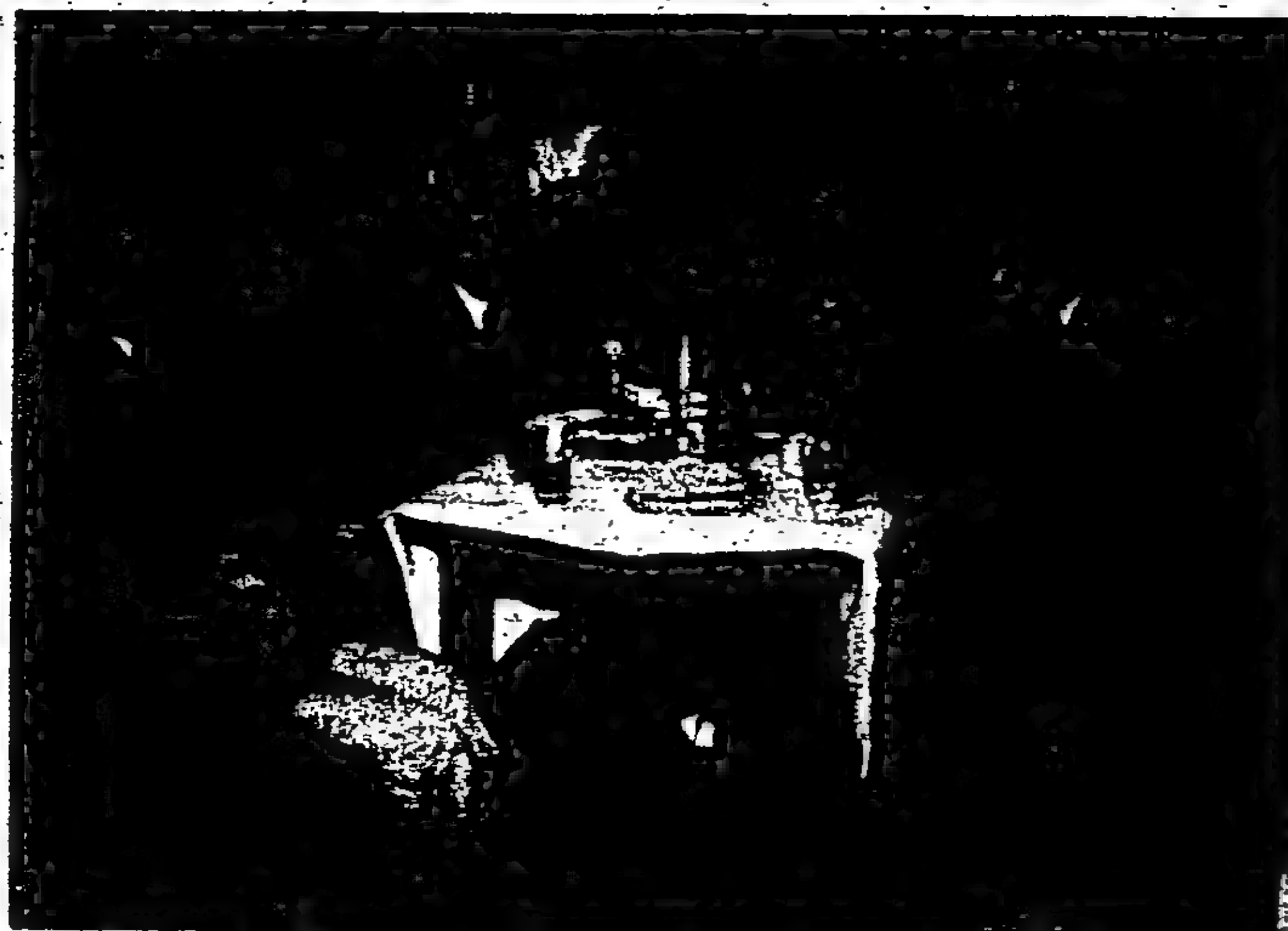
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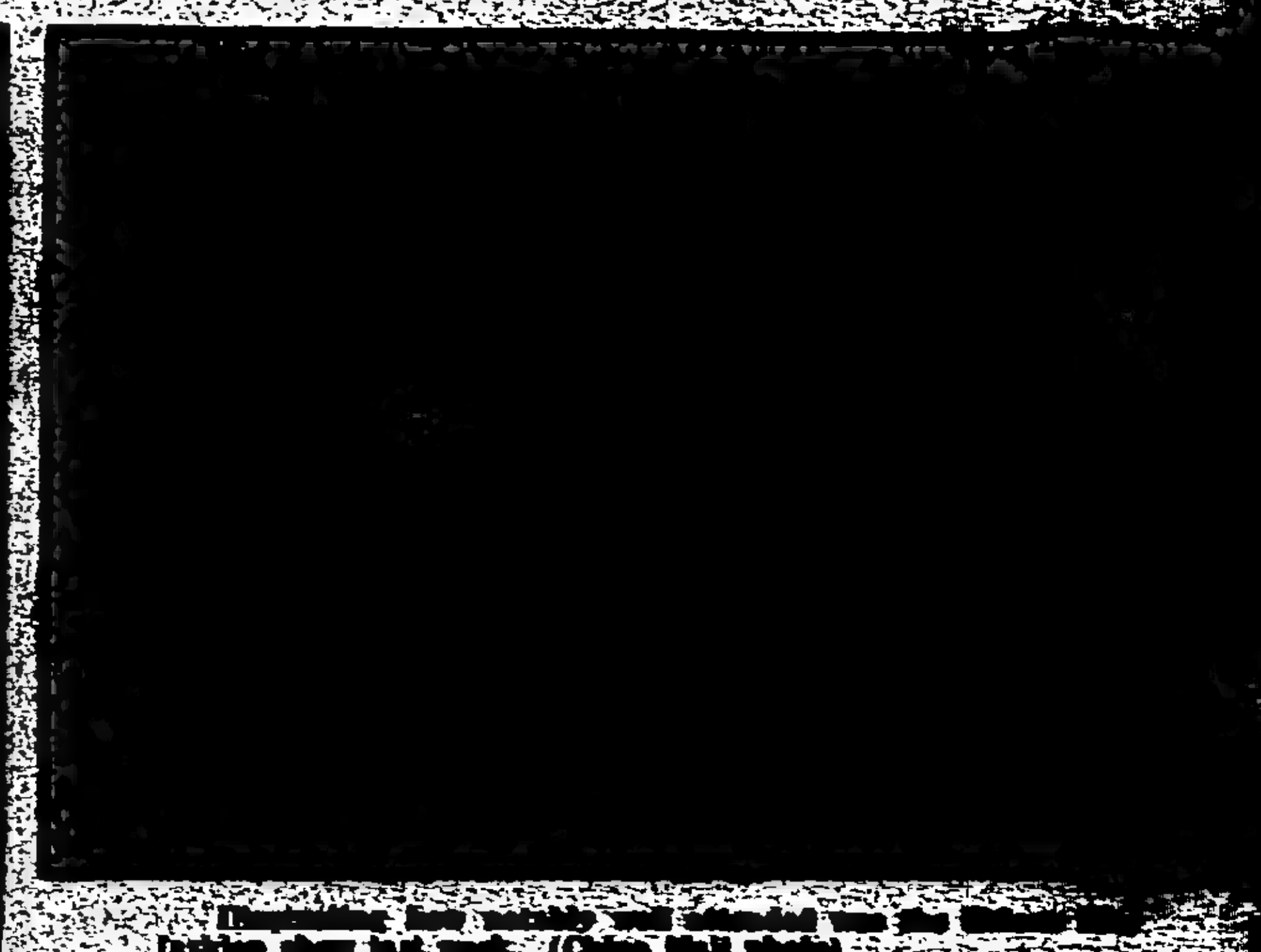
Lady Grantham inspecting the interior of the new ambulance presented to St. John Ambulance Brigade in Kowloon. (China Mail photo).



A cheerful party at the C.R.A. dance at the Hotel Booi Garden last week. (China Mail photo).



At the Northcote Training School prize-giving. Mr. and Mrs. Rowell are in the centre of the group. (China Mail photo).



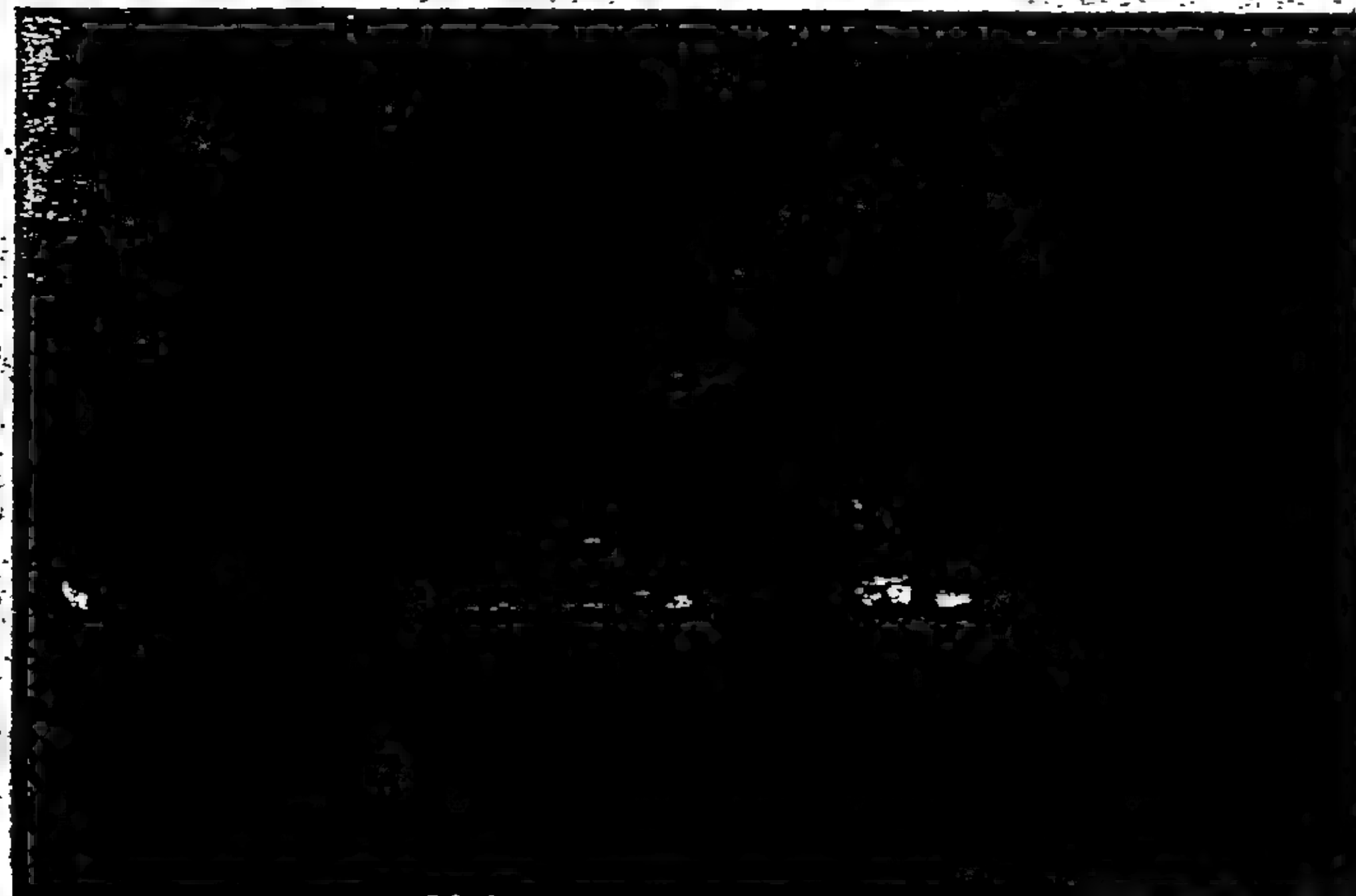
Interesting new variety well attended was the Fashion Show last week. (China Mail photo).



First aid demonstration in Kowloon when St. John Ambulance Brigade was presented with a 'free service' ambulance. (China Mail photo).



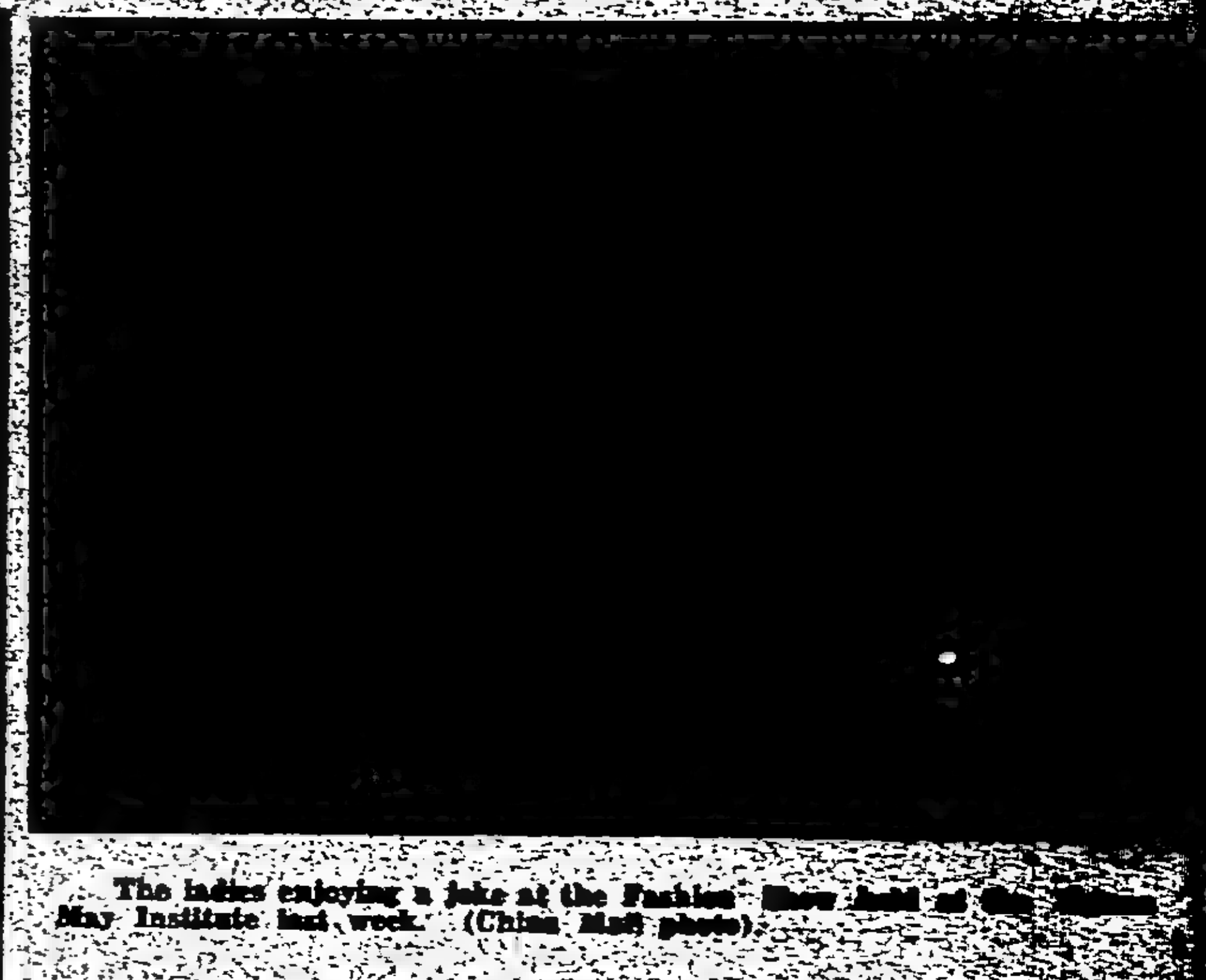
Mr. John Guichrist gives a solo organ solo at the U.S.A. -



H.M.A. Vengeance, one of the biggest of British aircraft-carriers which arrived this week from Singapore. (China Mail photo).



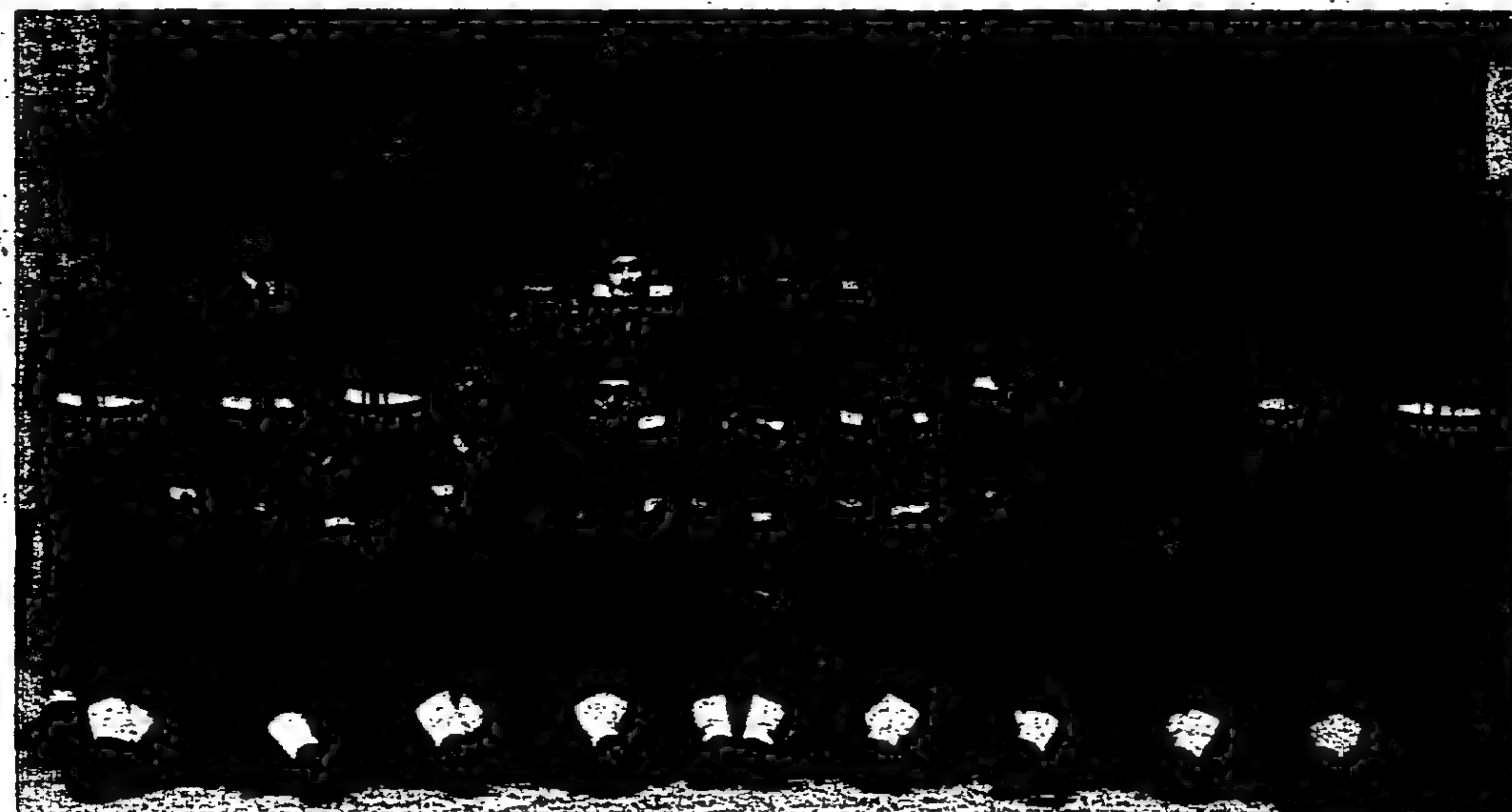
Mr. T. E. Rowell, Director of Education, speaking at the Northcote Training School prize-giving. (China Mail photo).



The ladies enjoying a joke at the Fashion Show held at the Chinese May Institute last week. (China Mail photo).



MISS AMY AMY KOWLOON



Bravo and 10 officers of the 2nd Bn. The Buffs. (King's Studio)



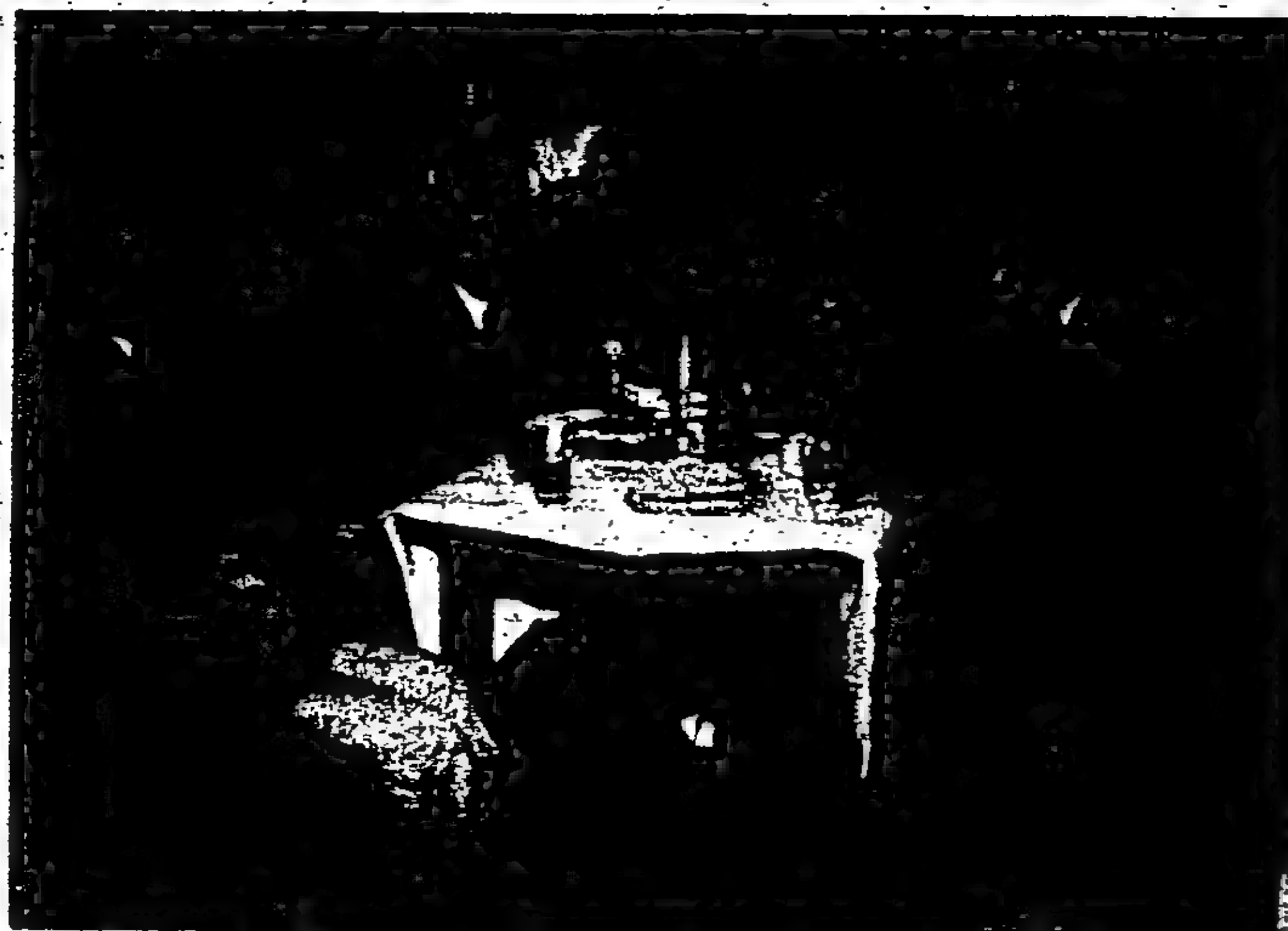
Cutting the cake after the wedding of Mr. Amado Valesquez and Miss Violeta King Louise. (Mainland Press)



After the christening of Marion, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Norrie. (King's Studio)



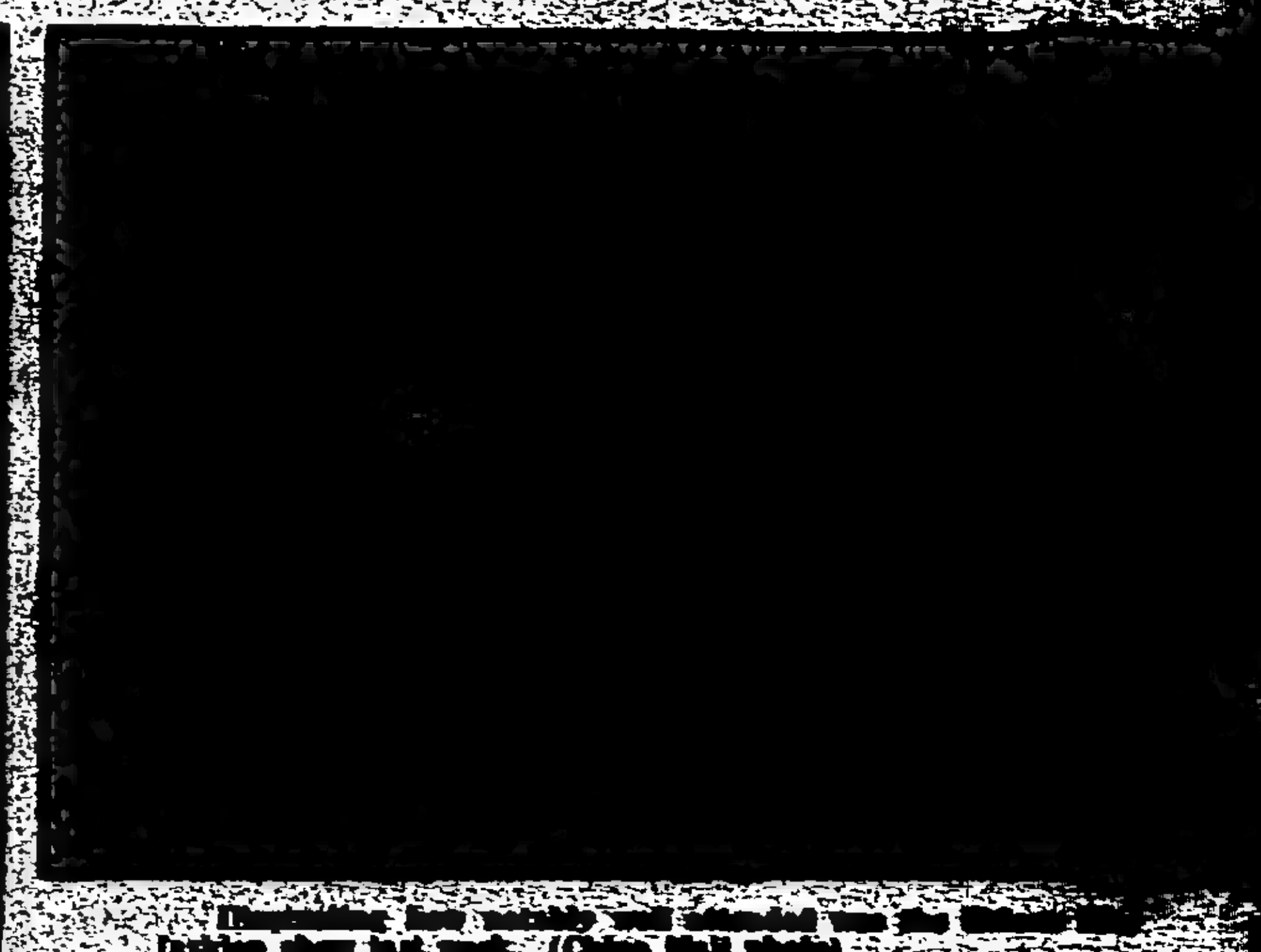
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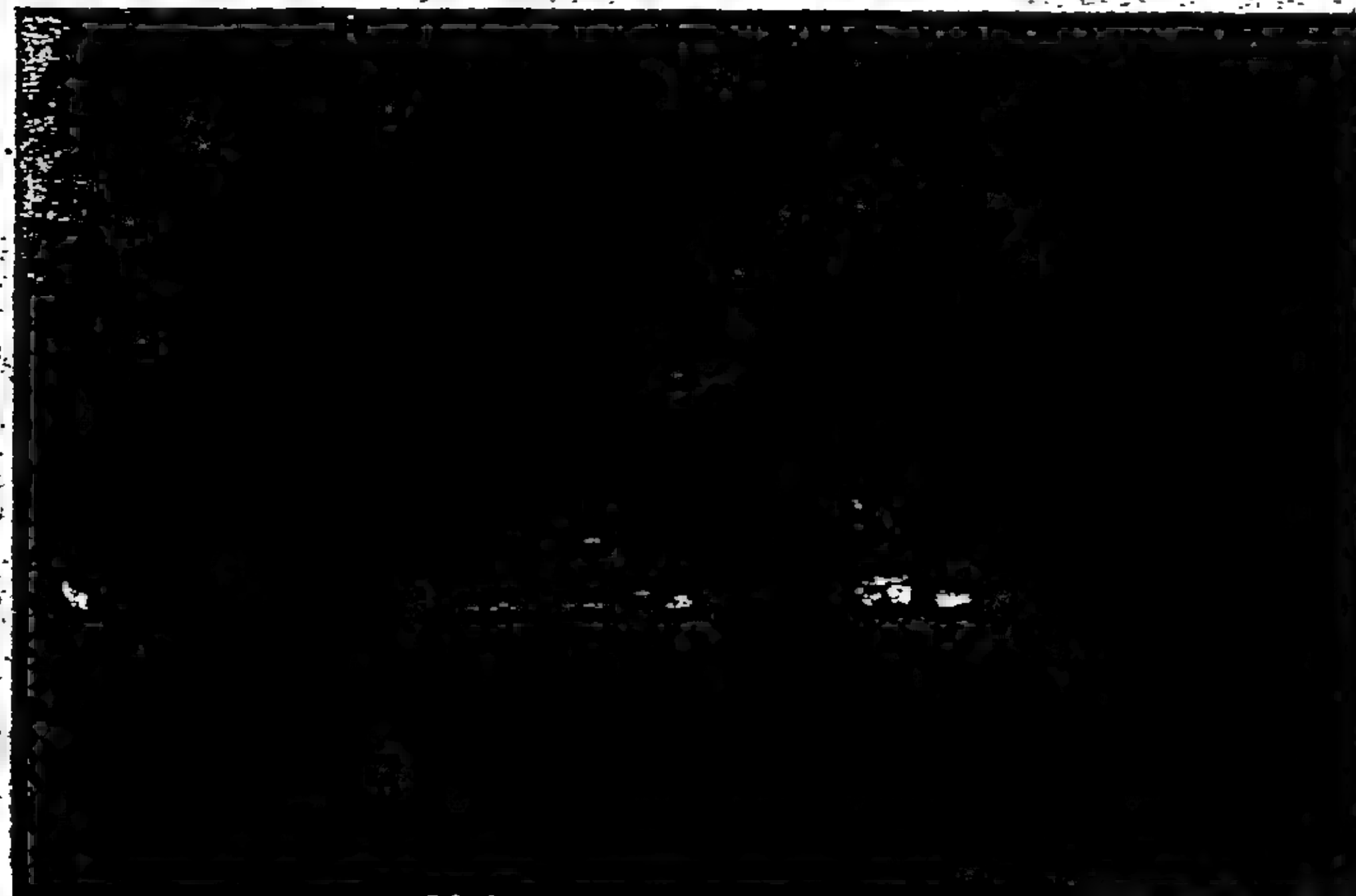
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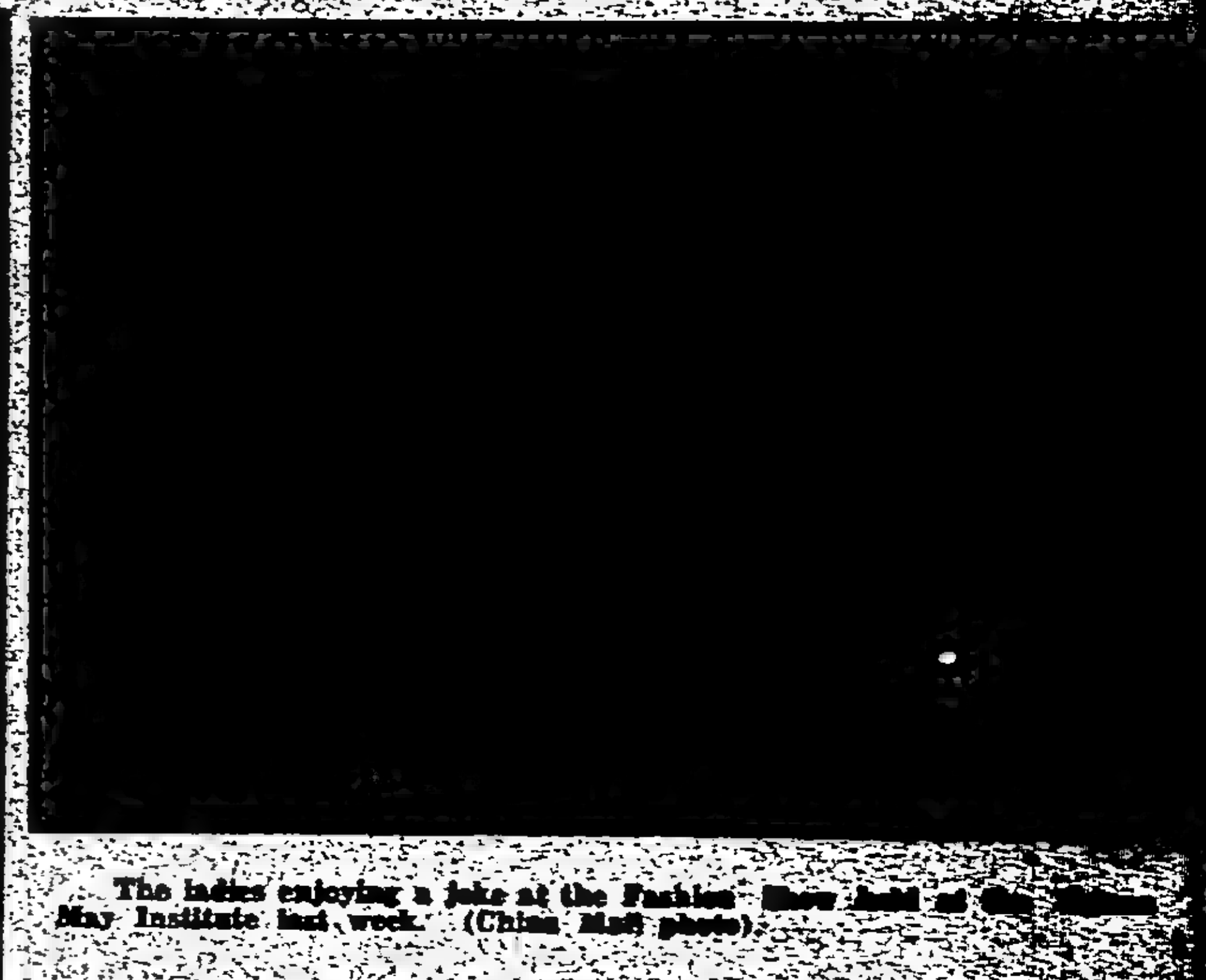
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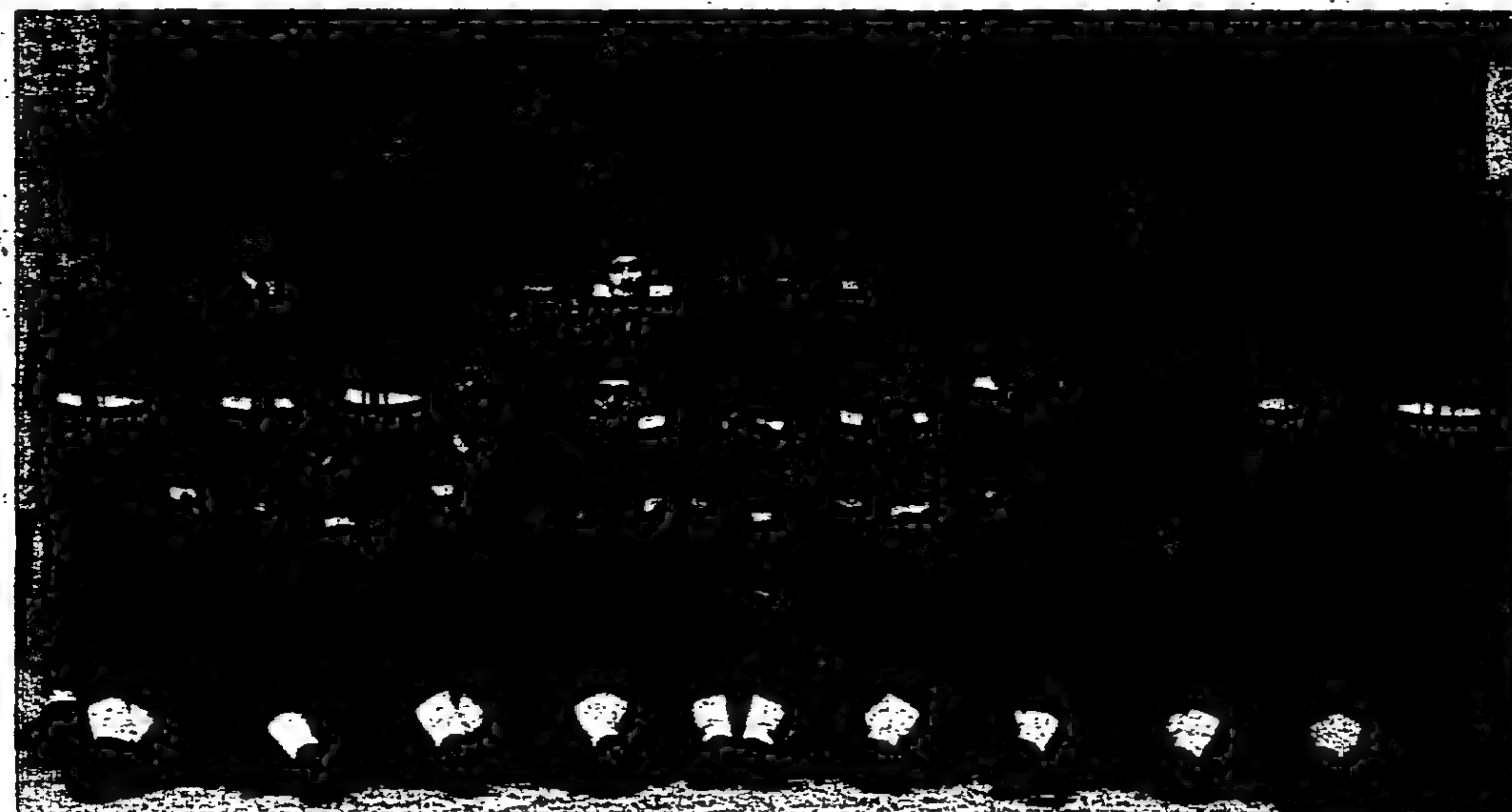
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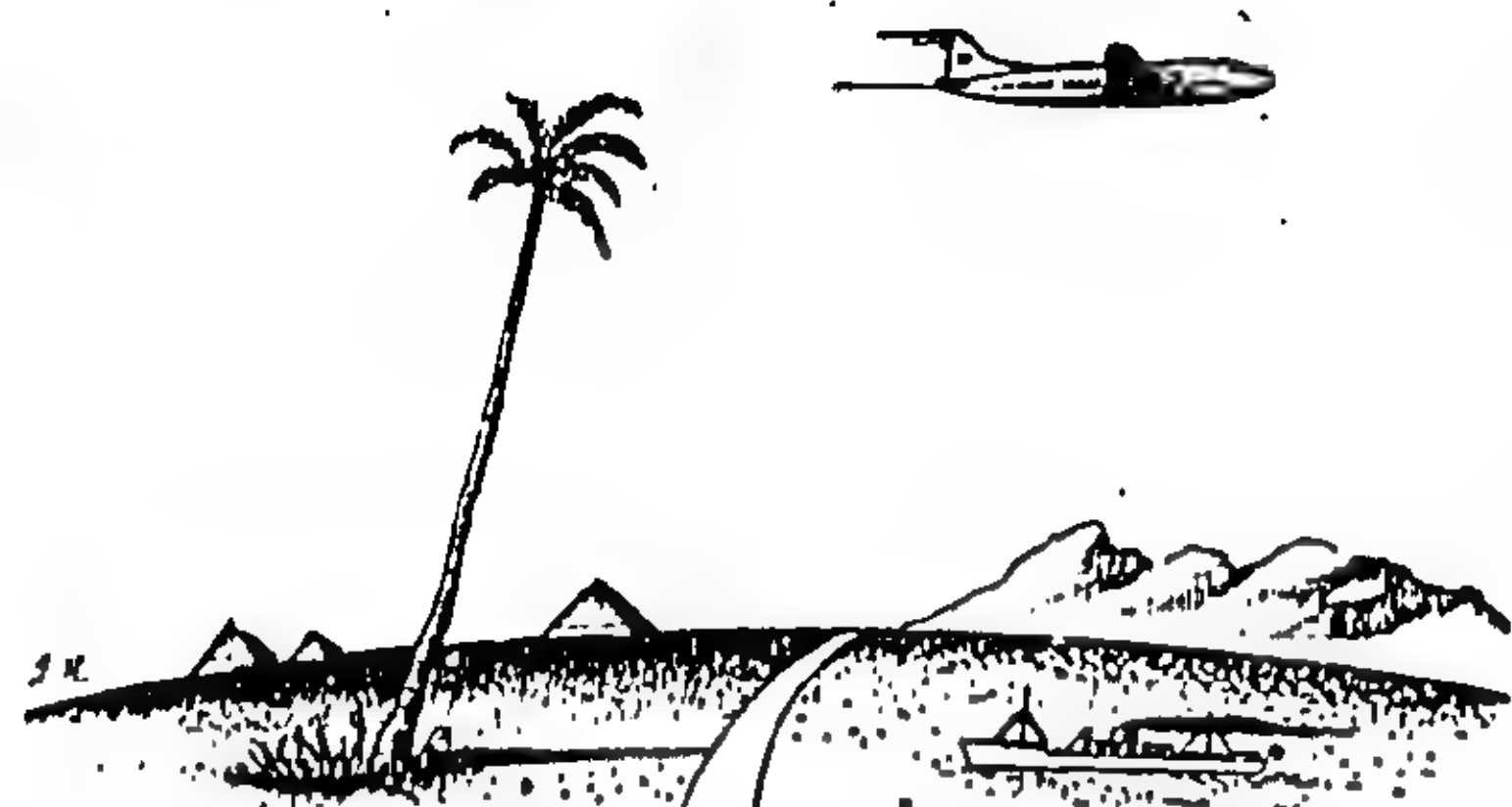


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After the christening of Marion, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Norrie. (King's Studio)

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ABLE SEAMAN



By HOLT

STOP-RUSSIA PARTNERSHIP? Britain May Abandon Mediation Effort Blueprint For The Cabinet

London, Dec. 27.
Britain may take her first definite steps next week toward abandoning efforts to assume a mediator's role in post-war affairs and move instead in the direction of a "stop Russia" partnership with the United States.

The full Cabinet will meet on Monday to weigh a tentative blueprint of this country's position in international affairs, a plan which has been drafted by Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin since the breakdown of the Foreign Ministers' conference on Germany.

Government officials have shown no inclination to minimize the importance of the decisions to be reached. Privately they have acknowledged these decisions must encompass policy questions not only concerning Germany but all areas where Russia and the Western powers have come into economic and ideological conflict.

Still smarting over the accusations of Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov that Britain is pursuing an "imperialistic" policy, Mr. Bevin nevertheless has been reluctantly reported as reluctant to force a showdown which might end big power consultations indefinitely.

Prior to the big four conference, Foreign Office spokesmen repeatedly emphasized a conviction that East-West differences should be surmounted through compromise and conciliation.

Soviet Charges
Since then, however, a number of factors have developed or been intensified in importance. There is a strong likelihood that these will help shape the decisions of Mr. Bevin and the Cabinet in the direction of greater support for American policies.

Perhaps the chief of these has been the widespread approval here which greeted most of the recommendations—including that for a large slice of financial aid for Britain—in President Truman's message to Congress of the Marshall recovery plan for Europe.

Another factor is the increased Soviet campaign of accusations against British-American policies from Germany south to Greece and the Middle East. This has served to generate British resentment.

Another element is the guerrilla movement of a Greek Communist state which may win the support of Soviet-occupied nations.

Wooling France
Just what Mr. Bevin's memorandum to the Cabinet will contain remains a top secret. But in view of the "full review" of foreign policy, which official Government sources say will be made, it seems certain the blueprint will deal with some, if not all, of these questions:

1—Methods of wooing France into the present Anglo-American economic operation of Western Germany.
2—The advisability and dangers of extending some degree of political control to the Germans in the Western zones.
3—Steps for strengthening the British position among the Arab states through new treaties or alliances.

Inflation In Japan

Tokyo, Dec. 27.
Japan's monetary inflation will advance rapidly in the April-June period of next year, according to Kihachiro Kimura, economist and member of the house of councillors.

He said Japan would face an economic crisis similar to the one Germany experienced four years after the end of the first world war, adding that first effects would be the capacity of printing machines to catch up with increasing note issues.

Kimura said the following factors would be responsible for the sharp note increase:

1. A huge supplementary budget will have to be made, due to the failure of the Government in enforcing an official peace system.
2. Increased issue of the Finance Ministry debentures will be necessary in order to cover delay or failure in tax collecting.
3. Increase in railway fares will have a delayed effect in various industries and
4. Provision of government and enterprise companies will demand large funds at the end of the year.

H.K. TROOPS DAY TOO LATE

Southampton, Dec. 26.
One thousand British soldiers who arrived here one day late for Christmas from Burma, Malaya, and Hong Kong were served tea in bed by their officers and issued with a special ration of beer on Christmas Day.

The Dutch crew of the liner Tabata produced for the men a typically English dinner of roast beef and Yorkshire pudding to make up for the absence of the family Christmas dinner.—Reuter.

Hong Kong Talks With Nanking

Shanghai, Dec. 27.
The Chinese afternoon newspaper China Evening News reported from Nanking today that the Chinese-Hong Kong economic negotiations have been moved to London following a deadlock in Hong Kong.

The paper said the negotiators deadlocked on the Hong Kong contention that it was up to China herself to combat smuggling instead of asking the British colony's cooperation by controlling imports and exports.

The Hong Kong representatives also argued that smugglers could easily use Macao as a smuggling centre if the Chinese proposals for trade control were applied to Hong Kong alone.

They pointed out that under such circumstances the Hong Kong market would suffer, while Macao would get the major share of trade.—United Press.

Coal Miners Keep It Up

London, Dec. 27.
British coal-miners won another victory in the battle to regain the pre-war output totals last week when they produced 4,400,000 tons, the highest weekly total since July, 1940.

It was the ninth week that miners had topped the four million mark, and it left only 2,150,100 tons of coal to be mined to reach the National Coal Board's target figure of 186 million tons for the 52 weeks ending December 31.

The Christmas holidays, however, are expected to reduce this week's output.—Reuter.

SIEGE RAISED

London, Dec. 27.
The state of siege in Istanbul and adjoining provinces of European Turkey was lifted today after seven years and one month, the Ankara Radio said tonight.

The siege was originally proclaimed in 1940 because of wartime fear of threat to the Danubian.—Reuter.

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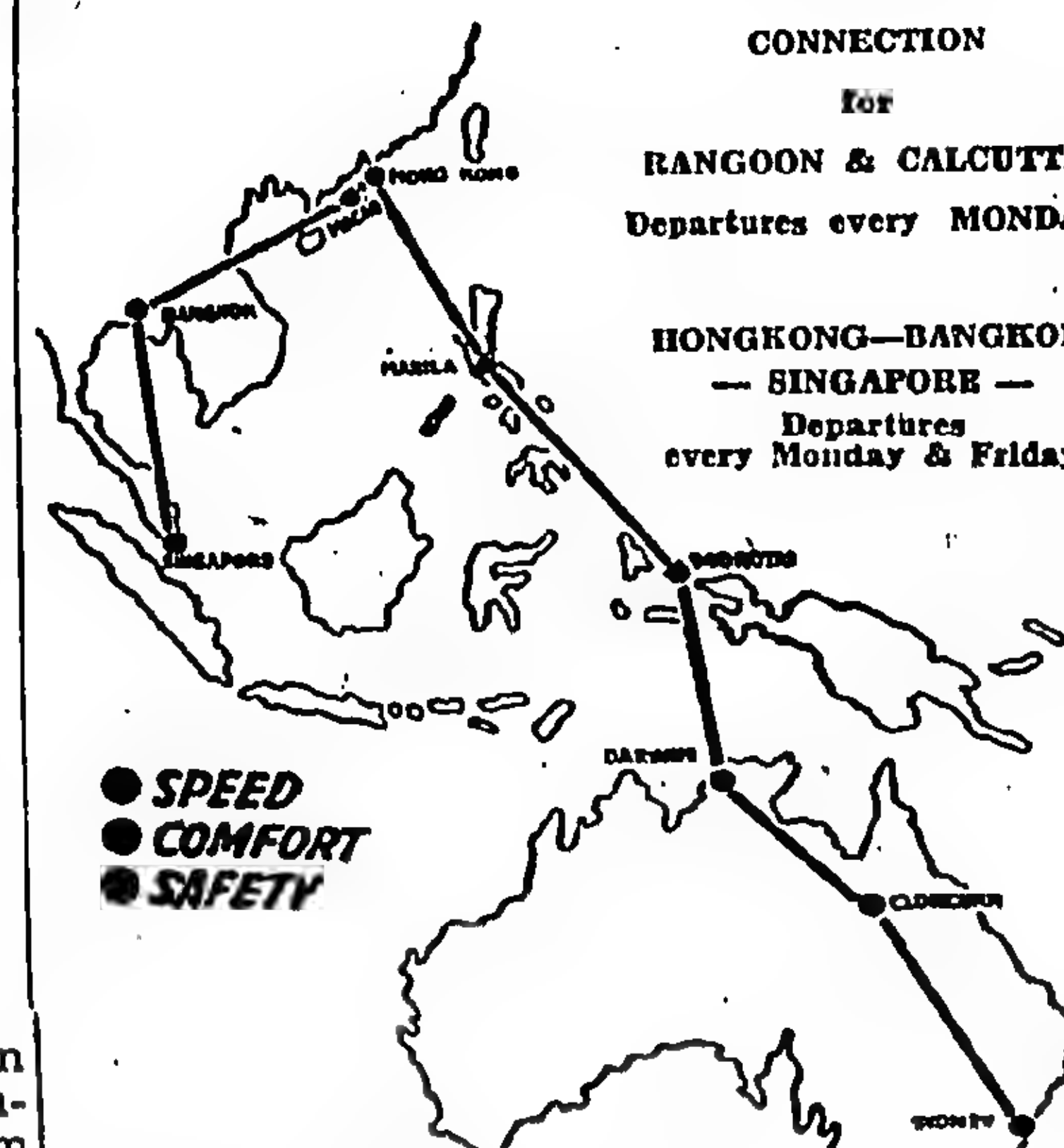
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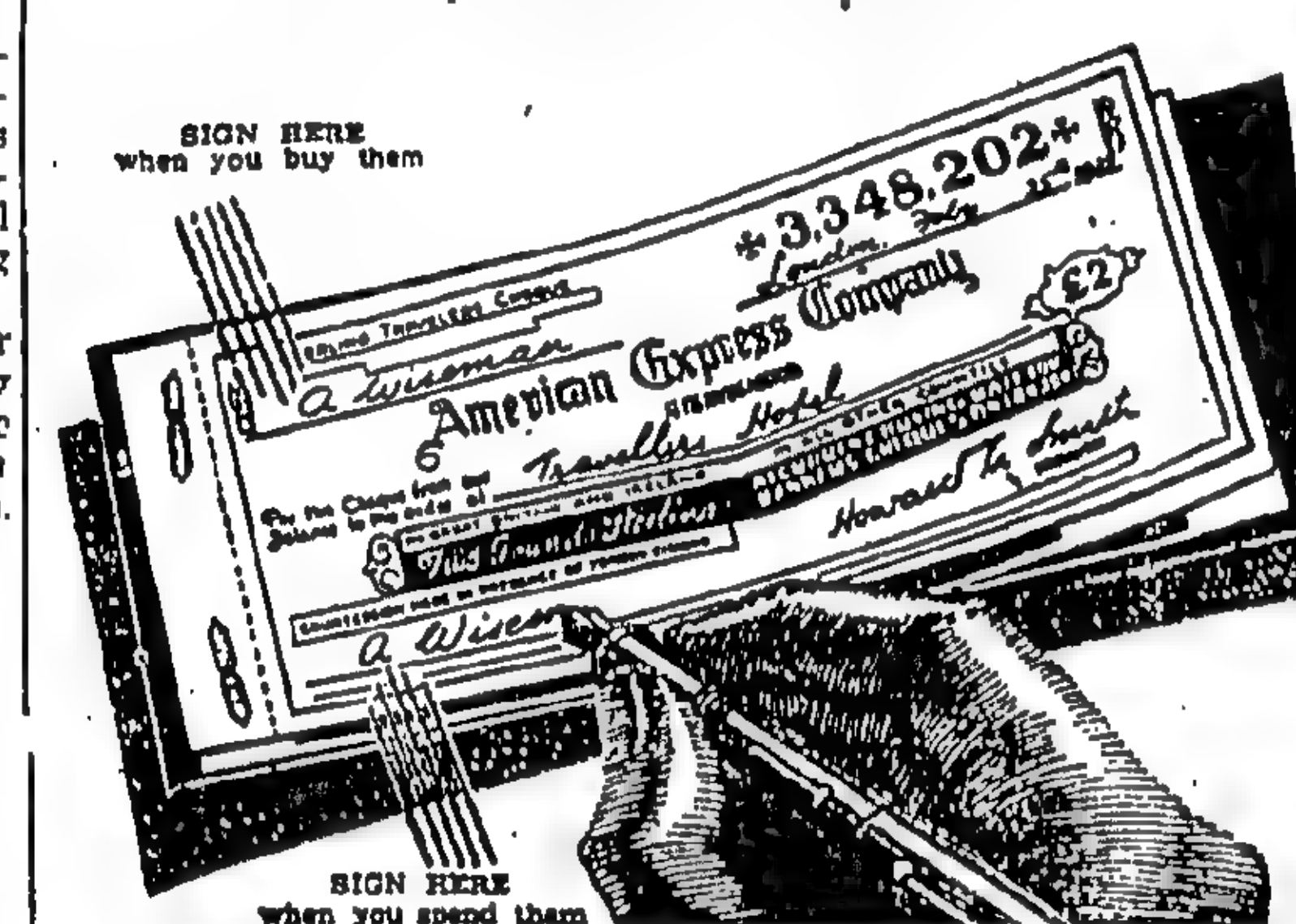
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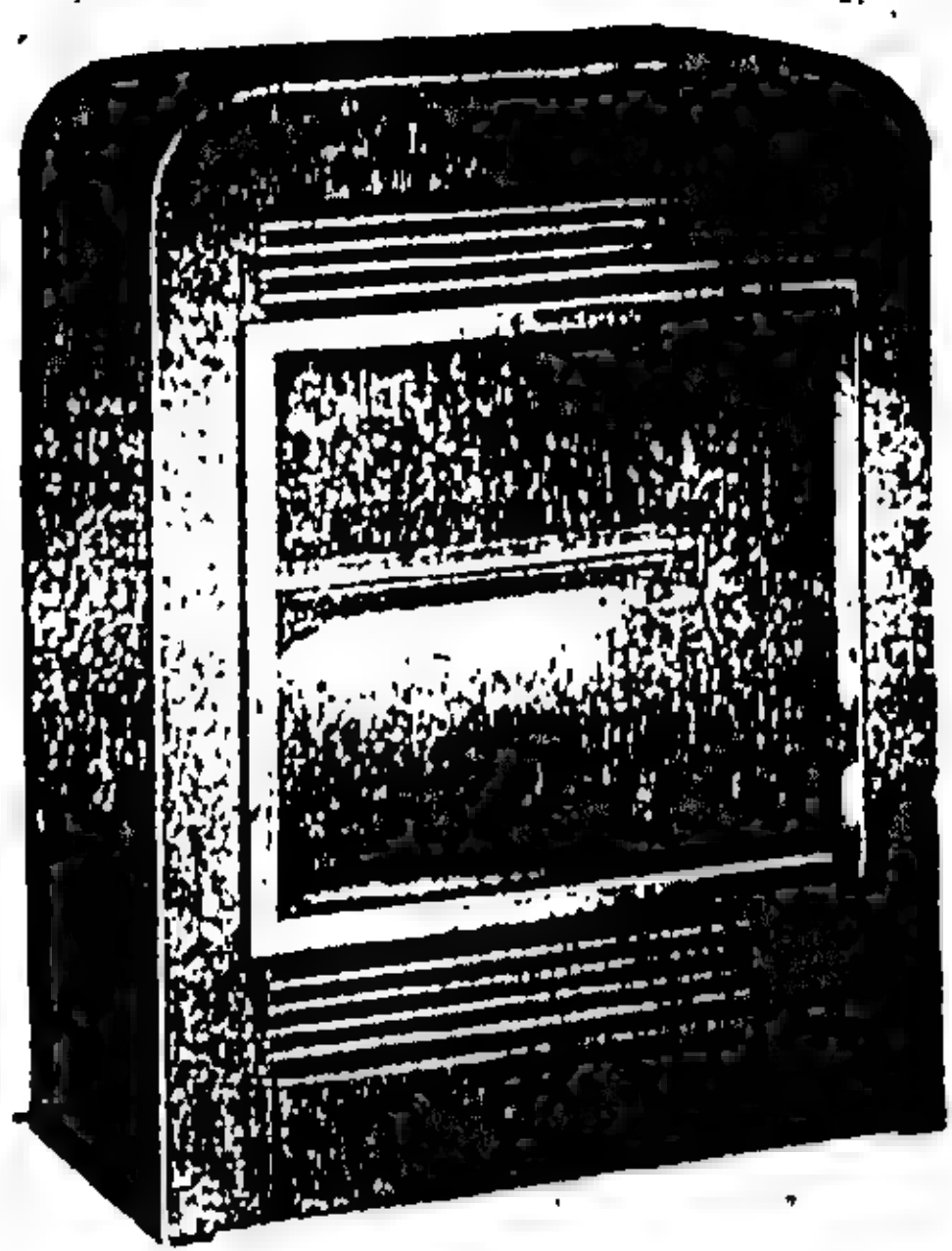
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A Tale For New Year's Eve By A Hong Kong Contributor

THE STRANGLED MAIDEN'S REVENGE

By Pauline M. Barrett

When the invitation came, the Strangled Maiden was standing before the long mirror in the underground chamber, half-heartedly trying out a few new attitudes and expressions. She tried bringing her flowing hair forward over her face, then parting it slowly with her fingers and peering through the strands with what should have been a look of extreme frightfulness, but which she was forced to admit, was only mildly horrible.

"It's no good," she said to herself, sinking into a chair. "I'm a failure tonight as well as admit it. Every year I'm less gruesome, I'll never, never get rid of these hateful people! How I hate them, with their jingling and their laughing and their showing off. Oh, if only something would happen to get me out of this rut!"

She realized that the trouble lay with herself and not with her job. She could not wish for a more perfect setting than the ancient rambling house with its shadowy back-grounds of great trees, the big pond, shrouded in the cold moonlight, where lurks used to swim when the place was a farm; the wide terrace before the front porch with its little flight of stone steps disappearing down to the snow-covered gardens. The old homestead was a winter playground now for the rich and idle, and the light of the season, when the moonlight was still the Maiden's own—her haunt on New Year's Eve.

Wistfully she thought of former years. Why couldn't it be like that again? All day long the cars would roll up the long winding drive, and the guests would arrive, laughing and cheerful and noisy. They would go to their rooms and unpack and change for dinner, then come downstairs and sit around drinking and eating and admiring the decorations and presently someone would bring up the subject of ghosts. Then the host and hostess—never the same as the previous year, of course—would say complacently, "Oh, there's a ghost here, you know."

Then all the guests would exclaim in delight and disbelief.

"No!"

"Is there really?"

"Where does it walk?"

"Male or female?"

"Let's hear more!"

"They say it's the ghost of a maidervent who was strangled on New Year's Eve by the farmer's son."

"You know this place used to be a farm, didn't you?"

"Of course, the farmer's son in a fit of jealous rage."

"Crises of joy would interrupt the story."

"How delicious!"

"It sounds too good to be true!"

"And did he really murder her?"

"Does he walk too?"

"No, we just have the one ghost. But they say she looks very strange."

Indeed, the strangled Maiden did it with still around her neck. On the stroke of twelve she flits, my dears, across the terrace dressed in a flowing white shroud and stands at the top of the stone steps and utters fearful groans and moans and is altogether positively paralyzing."

The guests were delighted beyond anything.

"Oh, we mustn't miss this!" they would chatter. "What time is it now?"

"We must go out on the porch just before midnight and wait for her. My dear, I've always wanted to see a real ghost!"

And just before twelve they would all put on their wraps and go out on the porch by the terrace, in varying moods of anticipation and scepticism. The Strangled Maiden in the underground chamber would smile knowingly to herself as she put the finishing touches to her shroud, pulled the stocking into place around her neck, gargled a little to make sure she would be in good voice, swore softly as she tripped over her long hair, and then, as the grandfather clock in the hall above her chimed the first stroke of the hour,

passed quickly through the wall and out on to the terrace.

The Maiden sighed deeply as she remembered what a big moment this used to be. She could usually count on at least two casualties in the first two of the women who keeled over and passed out; occasionally it was a man who couldn't take it. And this before had uttered a sound.

Then would come the flight across the terrace. If they appeared to be a tough crowd, holding their ground, she would flit very close to them, almost brushing past with her hair as she passed. They usually expected for two or three more, who either clattered to the ground, or fled gasping into the house, making straight for the sideboard.

Finally she would stand at the top of the little flight of stone steps, turn, and take stock of the survivors. Then came the sound effects. The Maiden had a most enjoyable time, for she took an artistic delight in varying her groans and moans and shrieks to the requirements of the occasion. Some years, it was all over in a few seconds; she had known it to take as long as two minutes. But she always carried on, true to the traditions of her ancient profession, until she knew victory was hers.

Now she was being hurriedly packed and were being hurriedly started up by shaking hands, and that soon a lot of shivering men and women, their flesh still creeping and their ears still tingling from those unearthly sounds, would be trying to put as many miles as possible as swiftly as they could, between themselves and that awful thing.

Sadly the Maiden recalled the way it used to be and wasn't any more. The humiliation of it!—that the same people had been host and hostess on New Year's Eve for three years now, and she couldn't scare them away! For the last three years she had flitted and moaned and groaned and shrieked to the utmost of her powers, but still they and most of their guests had stood their ground, had even laughed at her, and whistled and jeered and made insulting remarks, until at last she could only disappear through the wall and come back to the underground chamber and sink down on the stone floor exhausted and defeated, hating them, and weeping in rage and despair.

Would it be the best thing to give up her career entirely, find a comfortable vacant grave, and retire from active haunting? The end of the year was fast approaching, yet even the desire for revenge, which had been so strong, seemed to be languishing in her.

It was then, when the Maiden was sinking in new depths of discouragement, that the invitation came. It was in the form of a circular letter on an excellent parchment, with an engraved letterhead, and with the words "GOOSEFLESH LIMITED."

"Specialist in Horror. On Motto—FRIGHT IS RIGHT." The address was the Hotel Repulsive.

The Strangled Maiden brushed the hair out of her eyes and read on eagerly.

"To all Ghosts, Spooks, Spectres and Spirits now in training for seasonal appearances."

Dear Friend,

The Publicity Department of Gooseflesh Limited is pleased to announce a Short Refresher Course in Haunting, to be held in the Hotel Repulsive (101 & 102 running blood in all rooms) under the personal direction of Dr. O. U. Ghoul and his skeleton staff.

"(How attractive it sounds!" thought the Strangled Maiden.)

The letter went on: "In part, the syllabus will deal with—"

1. The Use of Sound Effects! To Clank or not to Clank—How & When to Glibber—The Groan—The Shriek—Knells, Bells & Yells.

2. Appearance! What the Well-dressed Ghost is Wearing—The "New Look" in Chains—Spectre Sportswear—A Shroud Enough? Should the Head be Worn in the Usual Place, Omitted Entirely, or Tucked Underneath the Arm?

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Fiends, if you have a personal problem, come and talk it over with our Dr. Ghoul. This is your opportunity! You CAN be more ghastly, more gruesome, more spine-chilling. Let our Ghost Experts show you how to be your most appalling best!"

Very faithfully yours,

GOOSEFLESH LIMITED."

This was indeed the answer to the Maiden's prayer. She would take her problem to Dr. Ghoul. He might be able to suggest something—and at least she would see some fresh faces, hear a little gossip, get out of the old grove for a while.

Quickly she packed a couple of fresh shrouds and a small bottle of Charcoal No. 3, replaced the cotton stocking round her neck with a nylon one, and floated purposefully through the wall.

It was the recreation hour in the Hotel Repulsive. The Refresher Course was progressing well, and the lounge was full of ghostly phenomena, relaxing after a busy studies. Over by the bar a couple of headless horsemen, without their

horses, were making merry with some spirits, while a group of grinning skeletons swapped stories with a party of hooded wraiths. In the middle of the floor stood Dr. Ghoul, resplendent in his chains, beaming at the cheerful scene around him.

The Strangled Maiden was chatting with a little party of fiends. Making some excuse, she left them and walked over to the genial doctor.

"Dr. Ghoul," she said, "I have a personal problem. I wonder if you could advise me."

In the seclusion of Dr. Ghoul's private office, the Maiden poured out her troubles. The doctor listened sympathetically, putting a question here and there, until the whole tale was told, and the Maiden clasped her hands and sat back in her chair and said tragically, "So you see, Doctor, I'm in a bit of a fix."

Dr. Ghoul leaned back in his chair, put the tips of his fingers together, and regarded her benevolently.

"My dear," he said, "the solution is obvious."

The Strangled Maiden stared at him.

"It is?" she said. "Oh, do tell me."

"You say you haunt the terrace where you were strangled?"

"Yes, doctor, I was strangled at midnight right there on the terrace steps, where I make the most noise."

"Hm. And who strangled you?"

"Who?—who strangled me? Why doctor, I don't just remember. You see, it's quite a while ago now."

"You don't remember at all?"

"No, I'm afraid I don't. I've never been specially interested, you know. But—wait a minute. I can't say I actually remember, but I believe it was a man who betrayed me or something—no, that wasn't it—ah, I know! He strangled me in a fit of jealous rage—that's right!—does it matter?"

"Would that be a young man?" asked the doctor intently, ignoring her question.

"Why yes, I should think so. Oh, it's coming back to me. He was the farmer's eldest son—that's it—and he was quite young, and—tall and—"

A faraway look came into the eyes of the Strangled Maiden—and very handsome. Why what are you doing, Dr. Ghoul?"

"I'm just looking for something," said the doctor who had turned to a large filing cabinet and was busily

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running through its contents. "Ah this is it," he put a paper on the desk and turned once more to the Strangled Maiden.

"My dear," he said, earnestly, "what you need is something that will put new life into your work. Or should I say—ha-ha!—new death?"

The Maiden waited, puzzled but eager.

"We cannot, of course," went on Dr. Ghoul, "rebuild your entire act with the original material, but in our files are listed ghosts of every description, with their histories, capabilities and specialities."

"Am I there?" the Strangled Maiden asked with interest.

Dr. Ghoul smiled benignly. "Why yes, now she would you have received your invitation to be with us now?"

"Of course. How silly of me," she murmured.

"But naturally there are some who could not, for various reasons, attend. Those in far-distant haunts, for instance, and those whose personal work is already in progress. Now, among those who operate at a great distance is this one here."

He tapped the paper on his desk. "It works in a ghost-town in Alaska."

"Oh, isn't it rather cold for him?"

"Perhaps so. He is, as a matter of fact, looking for a fresh location. That is, after this season."

"But what has this to do with me?"

"My dear young lady, you haven't asked me his name."

"The Strangled Maiden, somewhat bewildered, obediently asked his name."

"He is known," said the doctor, impressively, "as the Handsome Stranger."

"The Handsome Stranger? Oh—Dr. Ghoul! You—you mean—"

"Precisely. You say you are no longer devastating the public as you used to do. That is because people these days are demanding action, conflict, drama! If there's a strangling, they don't just want to hear about it. They want to see it done! And they shall, my dear, they shall—"

"If I can persuade the Handsome Stranger that this is the new job he's looking for."

The Maiden was radiant. What a perfect solution! With such a partner, what unsold horrors the old house could witness at midnight on New Year's Eve!

"Oh, doctor!" she exclaimed, "Do you think he'll come? At once? By the thirty-first?"

"This year? I doubt it. For next year, in all probability. But I doubt very much if he could drop everything up there at such short notice."

The Strangled Maiden pleaded with tears in her eyes.

"Oh Dr. Ghoul!" she said, "I must have him this year! You must get him for me, please, please!"

"Well, I'll do my best, but don't count on it. And if you do have to run things on your own again this year, I think you can look forward to an active partner for next year."

The Maiden had to be satisfied with that, but she felt that if the Stranger didn't show up, and she was faced with the prospect of carrying on alone again this year, even the reawakened desire for revenge on the present incumbents of the old homestead wouldn't be enough to pull her through. He must come—he must!

But the doctor drew to an end and all Dr. Ghoul could say was that he had sent a message off to Alaska with full details.

"He knows exactly where to find you, my dear, and he'll need no rehearsing. And if he doesn't make a 'his year, remember our motto—and do your worst.'"

It was growing dusk on the last day of the year, and the Strangled Maiden sat alone in the underground chamber, trying not to bite her fingernails. There was still no word or sign from the Handsome Stranger.

All day long the snowy drive had been busy with cars as the guests arrived, and the old house was alive with talk and laughter.

"I can't do it!" the Maiden moaned softly to herself. "They'll just have to enjoy themselves in their own way. Oh, if only he'd come!"

But the hours passed and brought no Handsome Stranger. Dusk passed into evening, and evening into night. The moon shone with a crisp and silver gleam on the frozen pond and snow-spangled trees, on the white garlands on the lawn and terrace, on the Strangled Maiden's own little flight of stone steps, where long ago she had achieved her greatest triumph.

Five minutes to twelve! The big front door flew open with a rush, and a crowd of laughing, chattering men and women tumbled out on to the porch by the terrace, hugging their fur coats around their necks and winding mufflers about their throats.

"What a perfect night for haunting!"

"Just look at that moon!"

"Four minutes to go. Bet you she doesn't show up."

"She did last year. Pretty hot stuff too."

"Pure imagination. I'll lay you five to one in ten cents that we're all catching cold for nothing."

"Don't! Just for the fun of it, I'll take you on. And won't I laugh if the lady does show up and perform!"

Down in the underground chamber, the Strangled Maiden listened to the shouting and laughter and gritted her teeth. Time was flying.

Two minutes to the hour. The Maiden stood up, moistened her dry throat, mechanically pulled the stocking into place around her neck, brushed her long hair back over her shoulders.

"I'll show them!" she said aloud, fiercely. "I'll show them, if it's the last thing I do!"

(Continued on Page 16)

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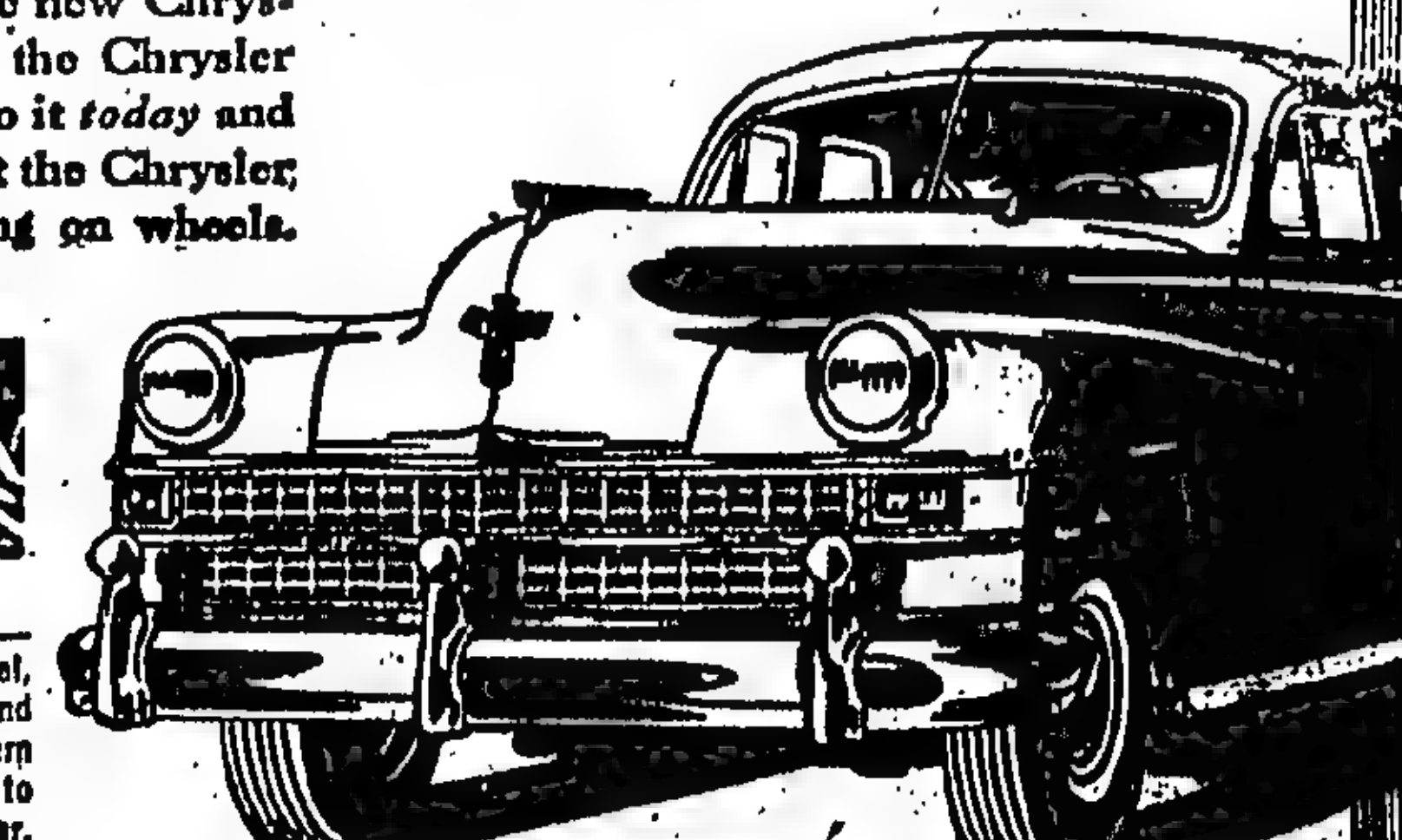
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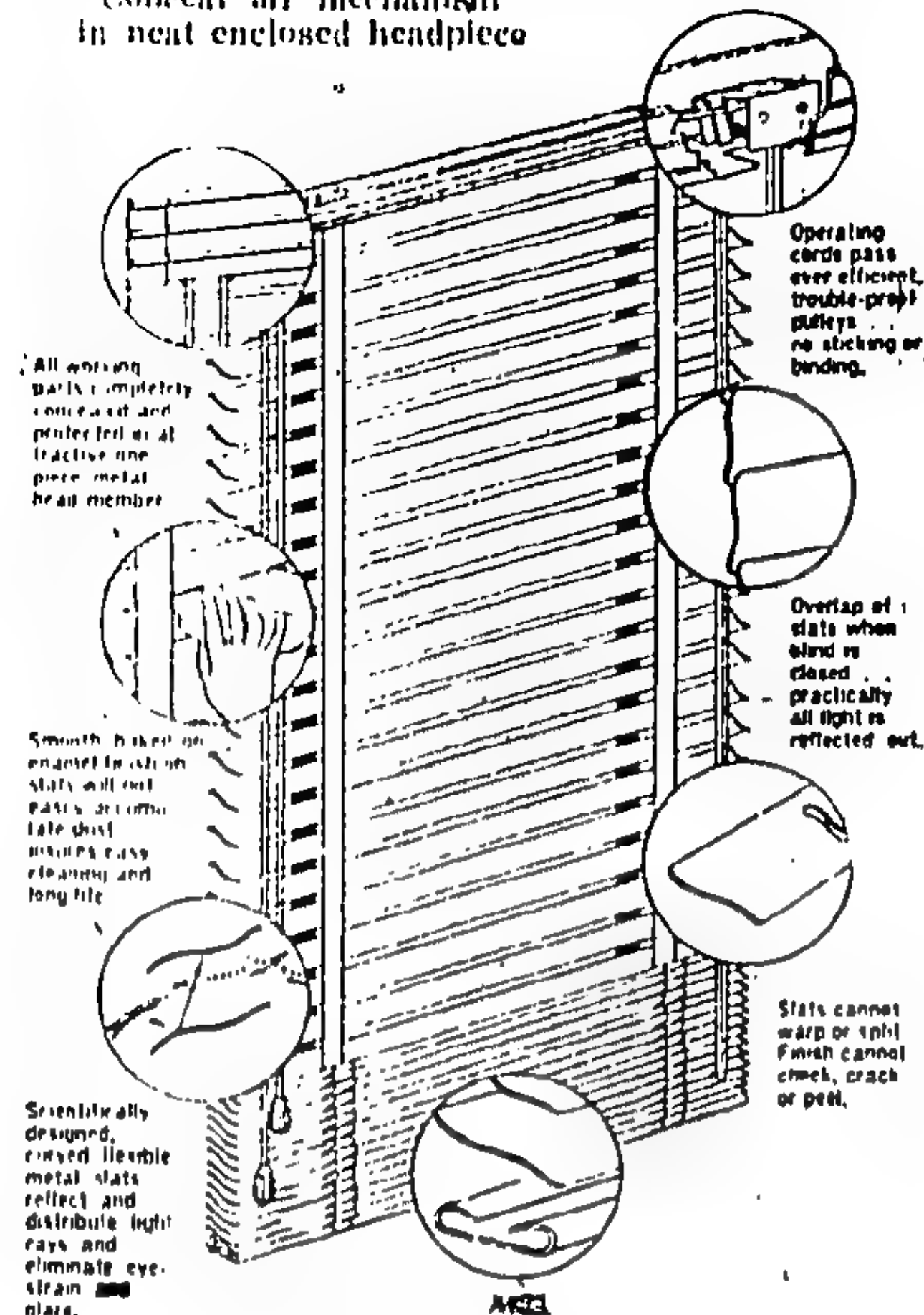
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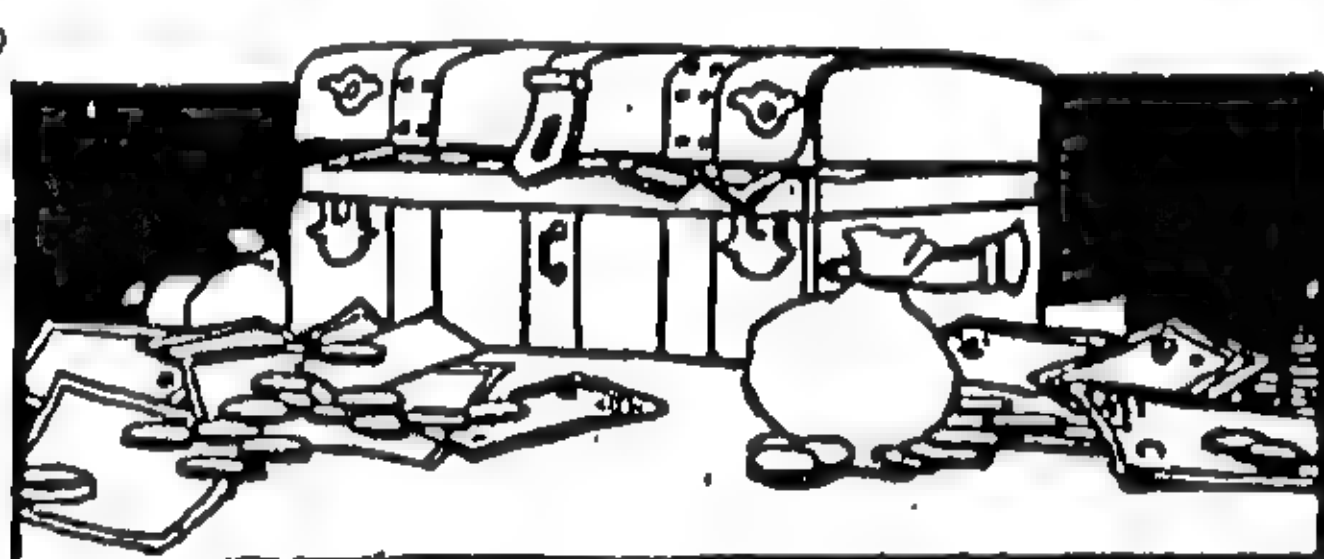
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THE KING'S XMAS MESSAGE

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Plea For Spirit Of Goodwill

London, Dec. 25.
King George VI, speaking before the microphone in his study at his country home at Sandringham, in Norfolk, this afternoon continued the Royal habit started by his father in 1932 of broadcasting a Christmas Day message to the Commonwealth of Nations.

At Sandringham with the Royal Family, which now includes Princess Elizabeth's husband, the Duke of Edinburgh—"the man she loves and one whom we love too"—are also the King's mother, Queen Mary, his brother, the Duke of Gloucester with the Duchess and their two sons, and his widowed sister-in-law, the Duchess of Kent with her two sons.

GREETINGS TO R.A.F.

London, Dec. 24.
A message of "warmest greetings and good wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all men and women of the Royal Air Force and of Princess Mary's R.A.F. Nursing Service at home and overseas" was sent by Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Lord Tedder, today.

The message says: "The country, as a whole, has come to realise more than ever before, the prime importance of air power to our national security. Good luck and good cheer to you all and may good comradeship remain among you always."

—Reuter.

Truman's Christmas Message

Washington, Dec. 24.
President Truman, speaking at the Christmas tree lighting ceremony in the White House grounds today, said:

"The great heart of the American people has been moved to compassion by the needs of those in other lands who are cold and hungry."

Saying that the first Christmas was a homeless one, President Truman went on: "For many of our brethren in Europe and Asia this, too, will be a homeless Christmas."

"There can be little happiness for those who will keep another Christmas in poverty and exile, in separation from loved ones."

"As we prepare to celebrate our Christmas this year in a land of plenty, we would be heartless, indeed, if we were indifferent to the plight of the less fortunate people overseas."

"In extending aid to our less fortunate brothers, we are developing in their hearts the desire for hope."

"Because of our efforts, the people of other lands see the advent of a new day in which they can lead lives free from the harrowing fear of starvation and want."

"With the return of hope to these peoples will come a renewed faith—faith in the dignity of the individual and the brotherhood of man."—Reuter.

The King was evidently thinking during most of his broadcast of Britain's and other countries efforts to rebuild from the ruins of war when he said: "When with our brethren overseas we stood alone in the defence of freedom we did not count the cost. We threw in all we had. We have now to create the fresh resources that we then poured out and to deny ourselves while doing so. But no-one remembering 1940 can doubt that we shall succeed and no-one can doubt that we are doing our level best to ensure success."

"This third Christmas Day since the war ended finds us still praying that the time may soon come when true peace reaches the whole world, when all men will be working together with goodwill to rebuild what has been destroyed, when every where fear will have given place to trust."

Spirit Of Goodwill

"Our prayers would be lost if we had already forgotten to be thankful for our deliverance from the greatest peril that ever threatened our beloved land."

"Our elder daughter has wedded the man she loves and one whom we love too."

"Christmas is a family festival and the hearts of those of us who are spending it at home go out to those who cannot do so, and especially to those still called on to serve overseas in the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force."

The King concluded with: "May God grant that the spirit of goodwill which brightens these homes today may spread from them in ever widening circles until in the fulness of time it crosses the face of the world."

"Come On Mary"

The King, who spoke through a golden microphone, was alone in his study. The other members of the family party listened to the broadcast through an ordinary receiving set in the drawing room.

Mrs. Mary Burt, the wife of a Durham miner, introduced the King over the air simply and directly. Her husband in turn introduced a Polish miner who is living with the couple when he called on his wife with the words: "Come on Mary."

Mrs. Burt, after giving the Royal Family "God bless you," said: "Now it is my privilege to introduce the father of the best loved family in the world His Majesty the King."

After the broadcast the King with Queen Elizabeth and the rest of the Royal Family went into the ballroom of Sandringham House to distribute Christmas gifts to servants and workers on the Royal Estates.—Reuter.

Murder Orgy Ends With 'Merry Xmas'

Greensboro, N.C., Dec. 27.
A four-hour reign of terror during which a huge white man apparently went berserk and killed three and wounded three others ended when he walked into a fire station said "Merry Christmas, boys" and shot himself in the head.

The police identified the man as Joe de Santos, grey-haired 260-pound tenant of one of the men he allegedly killed. Police questioned him at the hospital after he shot himself.

Officers said the night of terror began when de Santos carrying a shotgun and pistol got into an argument with David Martin, 52, landlord, who threatened to evict him. They said de Santos shot and killed David and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Della Martin, 21, and wounded Mr. David Martin and Charles Martin, 27.

Shortly afterwards, according to the officers, de Santos showed up at the home of W. B. Sevell, 52, and after a brief scuffle killed him and wounded Mrs. Evelyn Williams, 33. All the wounded persons were said to be in a serious condition.

Hospital attendants described de Santos' condition as "very critical" and that chances for his survival were slim.

The police had filed charges of murder against him.—United Press.



The 36-year-old Maharajah of Jaipur, India, celebrated his silver jubilee on the throne on Dec. 14, with ceremonial "Durbars" attended by visiting state rulers and Governor-General and Lady Mountbatten. (AP Photo).

CHRISTMAS MESSAGES TO THE ARMY

London, Dec. 25.
In a message to troops in all commands, at home and overseas, the Secretary for War, Mr. Emanuel Shinwell, expresses his appreciation of the manner in which they have carried out their duties.

"The past 12 months have, no doubt, brought both difficulties and disappointments, but you have met them with unflinching cheerfulness, thus maintaining that high standard of military conduct associated with the Army wherever they are stationed."

"I send sincere thanks for all that you have done and best wishes for Christmas, the New Year and the years which lie before us."

Field Marshal Lord Montgomery, in a Christmas message to officers and men, said: "1947 will be remembered by all of us as a hard and difficult year at which shortages and austerity have been the order of the day."

Earl Montgomery said that on the return to conditions of peace, it has been necessary to allow the great war machine to run down. "This meant a reduction in the size and shape of our armed forces all over the world."

"Such an undertaking inevitably brings with it difficulties and troubles which cause

inconvenience and discomfort. "It is to the credit of all ranks that this in no way affected the spirit of the Army. The difficult times are by no means over. There is much yet to be done."

"We have to forge this army of ours, which is a new national army, into an efficient fighting machine incorporating our regular and territorial forces."

"Good luck to you all."—Reuter.

Mercy Plea

Paris, Dec. 27.
A plea of mercy for 40,000 Frenchmen still held on charges of collaborating with the German has been made by the Cardinals and Bishops of the Roman Catholic Church in a letter to President Vincent Auriol.

It is estimated that 200,000 have been convicted. Many of the "political prisoners" the letter said, have been held for almost three years and never brought to trial. The letter did not use the word "amnesty" but said, "The hour has come for the Government to discover a solution to this tragic situation."—Associated Press.

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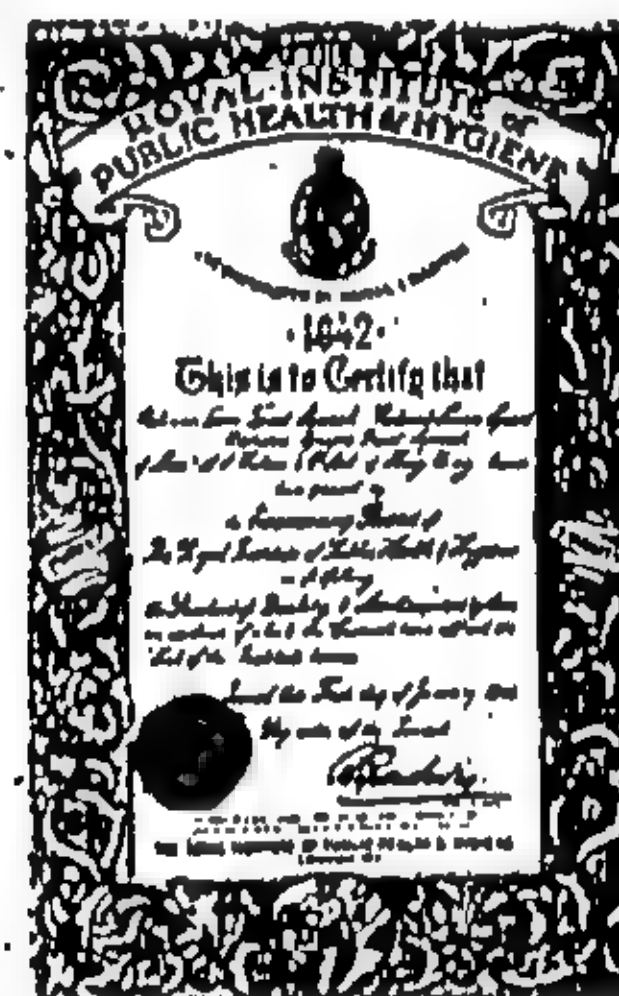
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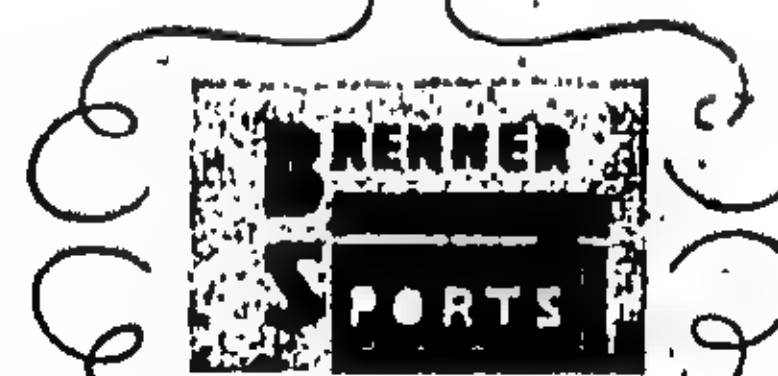
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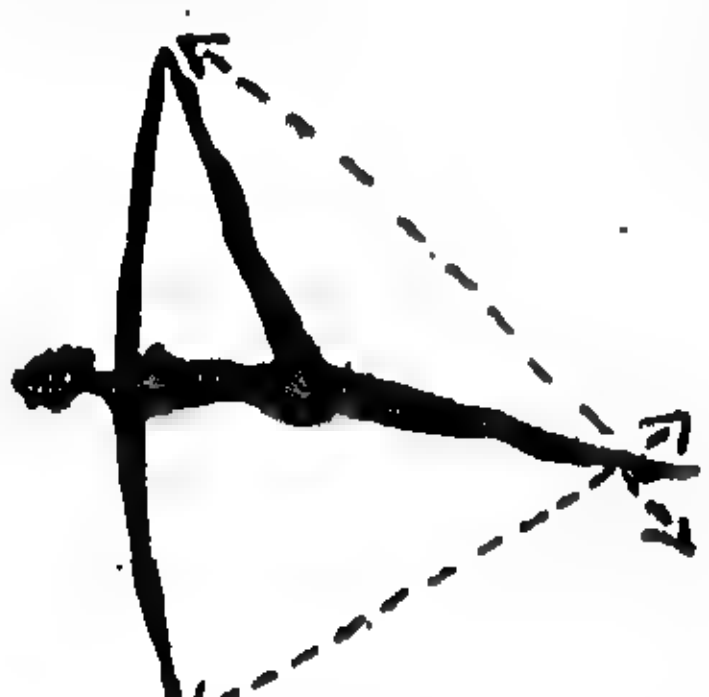
EXERCISE FOR HEALTH —AND BEAUTY

By Claudia



1 Hipline

Sit on the floor, knees up to chin, hands clasped round knees. Now rock back until your shoulders touch the floor, then forward again. Do this twelve times.



2 Hips And Abdomen

Lie flat on your back, arms outstretched at shoulder level.

Now move one leg up and over, keeping it straight, to touch the opposite hand with the toes. Each leg six times.

If you're planning to bake large quantities for the holiday season in advance, use honey instead of sugar. Honey absorbs and retains moisture, and thus retards drying out and staling. A general rule in substitution is to use three-fourths as much honey as sugar, and to have the flour measurement exact.

Curves are in again. The dress designers are busy padding out our hips, adding basques and bustles, nipping in our waists.

It's nice to know that a well rounded figure is coming in for its due mead of praise, so long as we have the right curves in the right places.

Unfortunately, these extra curves invariably choose the worst places to put in their appearance. Maybe an extra inch on the bust would be quite welcome, but the extra inch, conversely chooses to add itself on to the hips, which have more than their full quota of inches already. Or if a trifle more on the hips would please, the waistline gains an unwanted inch.

It is all very hard; and now that winter costumes are coming out of the camphor chests it would appear from the complaints I hear from all sides, that there are great many unwanted curves wandering around this year. All sorts of reasons are put forward, including the one which blames the water in the Colony for possessing some mysterious property which causes everything to shrink!

Be that as it may, the surplus inches nearly always appear around the waistline and the hips, and to split them away so that we can do justice to the latest styles exercise is the thing. A few special exercises every morning will produce the desired reduction, but only if you keep at it.

It is a complete waste of time doing exercises unless you do them regularly, and work hard at them. If you do them all the motions and it won't do you a bit of good unless you are prepared to put some energy into them and do them properly.

If you are so prepared, here are a few simple ones to try with:



3 Abdomen Muscles

Lie flat on your back, arms pointing to the ceiling, legs together. Keeping your legs flat on the floor, lift to sitting position. Wedge your toes under something heavy at first. Twelve times, the slower the better.



4 Abdomen And Seat

Roll over on to your tummy and lie quite straight, legs together, arms out in front. Now swing arms and legs right up off the floor, rocking your head and chest back. Do this only three or four times at first, working up to six and then to ten times daily.



5 Hips And Waist

Lie on the floor with arms outstretched at shoulder level and knees drawn up. Swing your knees and hips over to the right so that the knees touch the floor. Now swing them over to the same position on the left. Six times to each side.

These are easy exercises and not too strenuous. If you can feel them pulling at the slack muscles you are doing them properly—and you must set yourself a target, to do them better every day. There are two more "exercises," which don't need any diagram to explain them—a glass of hot water first thing in the morning and last thing at night!

NEW IDEAS FROM OVERSEAS

By JANET MARTIN

At this time of the year, particularly, the informal "party dress" has a host of functions to fulfil. Cocktail parties, Christmas parties and informal evenings which do not call for a full evening toilette... these occasions demand something a little more "special" than the ordinary afternoon frock. Quite often you find that with a little ingenuity, the ordinary afternoon frock can be given a few clever touches to bring it up into the "special" class for the occasion... treasured sets of matching costume jewelry are brought out, pieces of exquisite old lace, etc., and the dress takes on a new aspect for the evening.

Even so, there is a place in every Hongkong wardrobe for at least one dress designed exclusively for the "after five" gathering. So this week, I have chosen a few such frocks to describe to you. Illustrated is Joan Bennett, of Universal-Int. Films, wearing a charmingly simple lace two-piece. The dress has short cap sleeves and a low cut square neckline. The skirt is quite plain, with a touch of lace cunningly introduced in the front panel and has a softly apatched velvet sash. The wee jacket is cut on the lines of the classic bolero and you will note that the natural edge of the lace is left unhemmed. The appeal of this simple gown is its delightful femininity, and note the original placing of the flower accessories. Miss Bennett has chosen a most unusual arrangement, wearing her flowers in the place of a roll, round the back of her hair. Just the right touch for a cocktail party, don't you agree?

Next, I have chosen another simple model from an American collection, also incorporating a trimming of lace. This is a dainty gown in pastel crepe, the bodice made very plain, with close fitting neck and cap sleeves. The skirt has a wide draped panel, gathered into the waistline and falling across the front of the skirt, from the waist at one side, right down to the hem at the other. A wide band of heavy lace edges the drape and the sleeves, and the waist is finished with a very narrow belt.

Ideas From Paris

Yet another way with lace comes from Paris... a band of lace, about eight inches wide, draped just below the waistline of a full skirt, is a useful tip if you want to give an old frock the "New Look."

During the colder days, a woolen "party dress" may have a velvet collar and I have found the very one to keep you warm as well as festive. Made from the finest English woolen crepe, this model is made with a panelled skirt, only very slightly flared to allow room for dancing, and has a long, figure-moulding tunic. The long, close sleeves have a row of tiny, self buttons each, running from wrist almost to elbow. Nothing very exciting to original about that, you will say... but wait. The neckline is most unusual. A deep square, right back, is turned right back, rather like the opened lid of a box. And for the festive touch, glittering sequins, stitched singly, are scattered all over the tunic, top and skirt. The skirt, too, is edged with a wide band of the turned back and at the neckline.



Glamorous Joan Bennett, of Universal-Int. Films. (See Story.)

A gown by Christian Dior took my eye, demonstrating a new way with stripes and plain. Instead of the usual striped top and plain skirt, this model reversed the procedure, with a tiny, short sleeved, close fitting bodice in the plain material and a very full skirt in the gayest candy stripes. A small and saucy halo brim, made from the striped material and pinned well back on the hair completes the effect.

Another, more sophisticated gown, Carven of Paris, features the now asymmetrical line, so kind to the larger figure. This model has two diagonal lines, one cut from the left shoulder across to the right bodice seam, and the other cut from the left waist across to the left hip seam of the skirt. The sleeves are cut on the magygar style, three quarter length and the left shoulder, and waist, the diagonal panels are "buttoned on" with fancy buttons.

Lastly, there is a delightful model for the very slim woman, by Dels which he calls "back to the 1920's." It is almost unisex length, falling in long Grecian folds from bodice to hem, clasped at the waist by a dramatic belt all studded with flashing "gems." Not every woman's dress, this, but arresting and graceful.

Recipe For Today:

Apple Snow

Stew 1 lb. apples in just enough water to cover the bottom of the pan. When soft, sieve and add lemon juice or essence. Whisk 1/2 cup of water with 2 tablespoons dried milk for about 10 minutes, add 1 dessertspoon sugar, and the apple pulp, whisking well. Pile in individual glasses and sprinkle with nuts, or use 1/2 cup of sponge cake.



Becomingly Yours

Barbara Field takes crepe and molds it into a stunning, buttoned two-piece. And for the feminine look, matching lace is added to the collar and cut-away jacket. Note the long, cuffed sleeves! In black or brown. Sizes 9-15.

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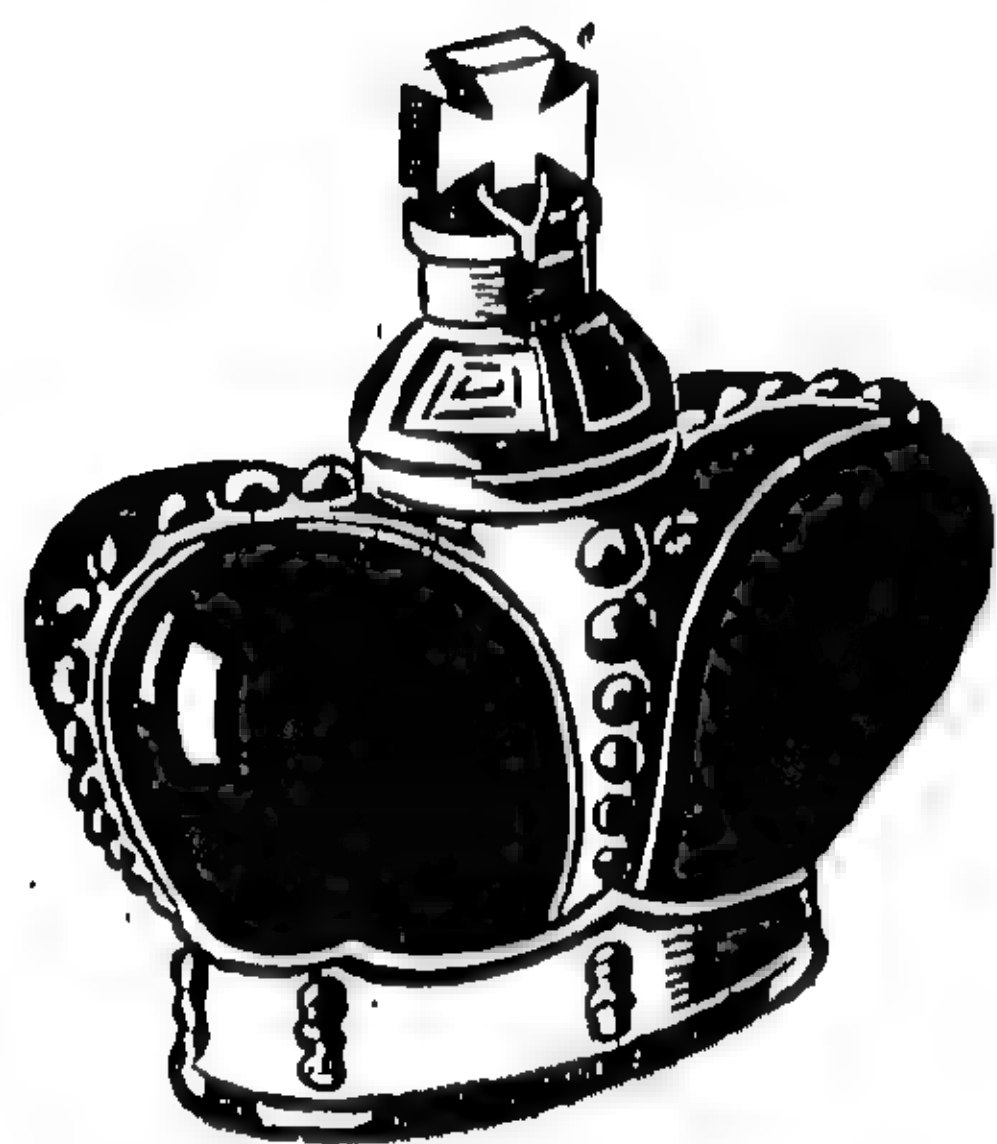
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Continued From Page 14

FIND A NEW PERSONALITY ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

By VICTOR MAMAK

Beauty is a matter of skin care—to do give a little more attention than usual to your skin for these few days. By this I mean that you should have a professional facial complete with cleansing, massage, and a pack for reconditioning.

Do try and get an hour's extra sleep for these three days at least. You will see what a remarkable change extra rest can make to your looks.

Have a professional shampoo and have your hair arranged in a new style—one that will suit your personality but different from the way you usually wear it. If you need a permanent wave, please give up any idea of having one now when there are only three days left for the fun to begin. A fresh permanent wave, no matter how expertly done, has a conspicuous artificiality about it which is not flattering. Your "perm" should have been done at least two weeks ago.

Your hands are just as important. They too need professional attention—on such an occasion at least. So have them manicured by an expert. Choose your nail polish with discretion.

Be Careful With Make-Up

Your make-up should, no doubt, be complete to the minutest detail—eye-shadow, mascara, and all. And no "clashes" please—complete harmony in your make-up is the order of the day. Use a special foundation which will eliminate the necessity of retouching your make-up for hours. To achieve this end, a cream make-up which comes in several flattering shades is recommended. Use it in combination with a cream rouge, apply powder and brush off, and you will see for yourself how tiny flaws, including freckles, disappear under its rich beauty.

If your dress is the "off the shoulder" type, do not forget to carry the make-up below the neck the shoulders, and the exposed part of the back. Powder and brush off as in the case of your face and neck. Your arms and hands should receive the same attention. This will ensure a flattering harmony in the colour tone of your skin.

Use Costume Jewellery

Adorn your pretty neck with a string or strings of pearls or a pretty necklace. If your ears are not large, you can wear earrings to advantage, as they add glamour to your personality. Wear any costume jewellery you like, as long as it makes you look attractive.

Be fastidious about your perfume, not only for your sake but also for others'. You must remember, one most important point about perfume. It is always more apparent to other people than to the user, so don't be lavish with it and choose one to suit your personality.

Your beauty may not be breath-taking or eye-compelling enough to stop the band, but framed in a new hair arrange-

ment, a new make-up, an attractive dress, simple costume jewellery and a suitable perfume, you can present a new and sufficiently inspiring personality to an admiring crowd.

First night

EVERYONE who has seen recent West End "First Night" it is hard to realize that this is the first time that the British and the Continent have met.

Stoles have returned to fashion and land women when worn over the shoulders of evening gowns, guaranteeing warmth in chilly fevers. The lady on the left has also adopted the new Marie Antoinette style, with one-sided ruffles worn lower than shoulder length. The mandarin type coat has high, narrow collar, nipped-in waist, three-quarter sleeves, and fur trimming round the bottom of the coat which is longer at the back than the front. The dress showing a hobbled skirt of the new shorter length for evening. The panned over skirt is a richly patterned material. The veil, covered in large gold discs, is a new fashion.

HOW TO BE HAPPY IN FLIGHT

So you're going away? By all means! Just look at that snappy suit, neatly pressed, with the warm, snug jumper (my dear, every body knows how cold it is when you're flying). You've forgotten something, haven't you? Where are you going? Down South? Well, just remember that they may be having the worst hot day since the 1876 record, and you'll land right in the middle of it with that wilted lettuce look.

"COLOUR" THAT MAN!

Hollywood, Nov. (U.P.)

Until now, a gal had to wiggle hips, bat eyelashes, and coo sweet things to catch a man. She can throw some tricks away. Hollywood's top technical director revealed how she can snare him—with just sexy colors.

The only safety males have now is to be color-blind. "It's very scientific," Rouben Mamoulian shrugged. "Tests prove colors produce definite reactions upon a person's blood pressure."

Now red, our expert began, is the sexiest color of all. That's because mankind always has linked red with fire and blood. Meaning danger, heat and violence.

Wrap up those emotions into a red dress and you'll bring out the animal in any man.

The lady in red jolting on a white fur rug is the honey of 'em all, whispered the director. Not because white is sexy. But red against white makes red look redder.

"Anyway," added Mamoulian in understandable confusion, "a man figures on making love to the lady, not the rug."

As a matter of fact, white is the most seductive color. Primitive man, he explained, connected white with snow. So white symbolizes purity, coldness, virginity.

A gal's fool, snapped Mamoulian heatedly, if she drapes her boudoir in white. Better if she did the room in green. With a big red lampshade, maybe.

"Green is a relaxing, cool color," he said. "It's always connected with spring and growing things."

Too Much Of A Good Thing

But don't rush out to buy a truck-load of red dresses and red furniture, he hastily added. The poor man couldn't stand it.

A person can have too much liquor or too much steak. He also can have too much red.

Yellow and orange are fair to middling sexy colors. They arouse mild interest. Brown, being earthy, is a serene, happy color. Pale blue is nice, delicate thing, if a girl wants to look that way.

But shy away from deep blues. Absolutely frigid, snapped M. Mamoulian. Whoever said passion was purple just didn't know he was wrong.

Black isn't sexy as people think, either. Black means sadness. It's suggestive only when you see another color through it. A heavy black stocking or night gown on a woman looks mournful. But a sheer one doesn't.

This catch-with-color plan used the right way, could lead to trouble. When a man courts you, start with the three colors and warn him. When he's ready, pop out with the red dress and the white fur rug.

You can't lose.



WOMEN IN HISTORY

Nearly every country in the world makes some reference to the infidelity, inconstancy, disloyalty and general cussedness of women in its national proverb— that being a pleasantly abstract and untraceable place for such unkind remarks.

Very few proverbs have anything good to say about women—but then, most proverbs, for sure, were started by men.

The Irish, usually the most open-minded and generous of souls, hand out this dismal advice to their sons: "There are three without rule: a mule, a pig, and a woman." "A woman has an excessive number of anons" and "A pig is more impudent than a goat, but a woman surpasses all." The last seems slightly earthy. The next one is still Irish, but could come from the land of the heather across the way: "Everything dear is a woman's fancy."

Unexpected cynicism comes from the Scots, who pronounce gloomily, "He that tells his wife all is but newly married!" and "Choose your wife with her nightcap on!" but then, who'd get married, after that?

From Corsica: "Heaven has scattered on the earth twelve ounces of honesty and Woman has picked up eleven." What? Napoleon take the rest?

Even the Finns have had it—and this, remember, was before the days of the New Look: "A man goes out of the house for business, a woman to be looked at."

"A wedding lasts a day or two, but the misery for ever." That's from the Czechs, who seem to have given up the fight long ago.

Wear Bright Accessories

Accessories should be big, bright and beautiful. They can provide the colour that you need, if you choose them well.

A large handbag is best for travelling. It holds all those last-minute dressing-table oddments, your toothbrush, your glasses (by the way, you DID bring your glasses, didn't you?). If you'll be dealing with your own luggage, or carrying parcels, it's a good idea to use a shoulder-strap bag, which can be slung out of the way when necessary.

Wear gloves, even if you don't ordinarily. Dirty hands can make you depressed, whatever you're doing, and dealing with airport labels, forms, and leather luggage can do horrible things to your nail polish.

It's not a very cheering reminder when you're going away for a trip, but a couple of generations ago they loved a morbid phrase which began "What if you had an accident...?"

Remember that when choosing your travelling shoes. You want a pair that will stand up with you in an emergency and not fold up at the first opportunity.

If you're going to a strange city there may be any amount of walking to do before you're finally settled in a hot bath, with your luggage on the floor asking to be unpacked. Sensible heels (that means heels that you can handle easily, no matter what height they are), no ankle-traps, and leather that will polish back to its original glory is what you need.

Perfume? Well... yes, if you really want to. But make it mild and light, and remember the people who will be around you for hours.

Wear your usual light day make-up. If you're going to arrive at night, and be met at the other end, you can always add a few finishing touches just before you arrive.

Maybe you've already thought of these notions. But if you haven't they may help you to have an easier time on your travels.

Good trip, and happy landings!

Try this new sandwich trick: Toast white bread on one side, cover the untoasted sides lightly with butter, slice pineapple and bacon strips. Broil or bake until well browned. Serve hot.



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"He gets free travel and his wages half-free. So he can go out the country and get harm, and the rest of it for half-price and bring them back and sell them in the Black Market."

"And nearly everybody has an audience in Picardy who sends food, and only someone could find a way" tasting the French peasant, the French peasant would be "naked".

But now, if you talk to people who live in Paris, and if you believe them, you feel reassured and calm, and at the same time a little angry—as if your alarm clock had gone off three hours too early.

What he was told is anybody's guess, but the sabotage campaign during the strikes, which included cutting telephone wires, sowing "iron carpets of hedgehog nails" on roads and unbolting rails (as in the Arras train crash; where 20 were killed) was politically interesting.

It was probably due to something more than blind anger or lack of local co-ordination.

"Yes, that's right!"

"And when we get to those steps we go through the strangling routine. Make with the shrieks and yells to start with, then turn on the gurgles, so they'll know you're choking. After that—well, there's still sure to be a party—some really high-pitched screams should fix them all right, eh?"

"It sounds perfect. Strangle just perfectly Ob—listen!"

It was the first stroke of midnight.

"See you soon," said the Strangler, giving her a little encouraging push.

"Good luck!"

Through the wall sped the Maiden and the other terrace.

Silence fell suddenly, like a thick band upon the forehead.

There were more casualties in the porch, and the Malden realized with the keenest delight that the standing there and they appeared to be paralyzed. There was no sound at all.

She reached the little flight of stone steps and turned to face the pursuer, her hands clasped to her breast. In a second he was upon her and the silence was torn apart by a sudden, unearthing scream.

His muscular hands caught her by the throat, and the scream broke into a choking gurgle as she lay away, tottered, and finally

"I couldn't have done a thing without you," he answered, fervently. "You are the loveliest woman I have ever strangled. Allow me—"

Gandy, who was around the neck of his own throat, then he took, both hands in his.

"Shall we haunt together always?" he asked her softly.

With her head against his shoulder, she whispered her reply, "Yes, always," she said. "And you, you shall strangle me every New Year's Eve, for ever, and ever, and ever, and ever, and ever."

"Couldst thou snow was falling softly, and all the bells rang in the New Year."

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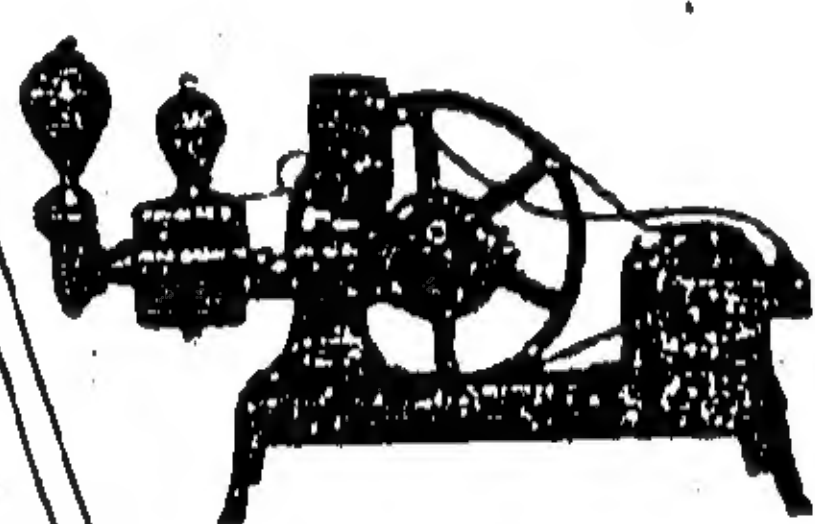
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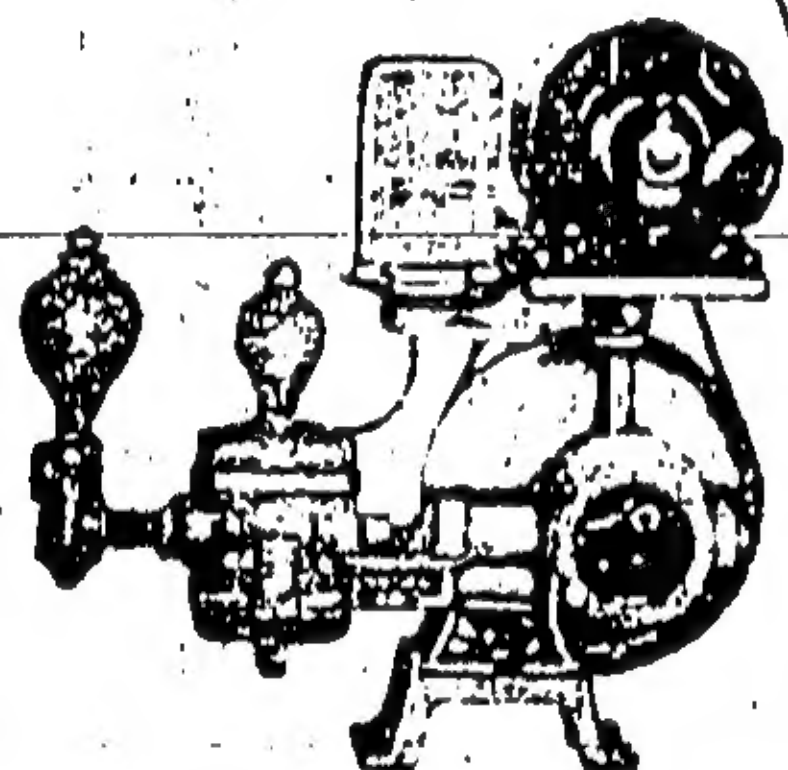
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ROUND-UP FROM THE PITCHES

Stepito Wins Himself A Hat Trick

Howarth Takes 7 For 61 Runs

A hat trick by Lt. Stepito and two innings by J. E. Richardson, Club's opening batsman, who was undefeated in both with 113 and 50 were the highlights of the Quadrangular Tournament Cricket game between Club and Army played on Friday and yesterday. Howarth was the most successful of the Club bowlers taking 7 wickets for 61 and 6 for 36. In the other Quadrangular game between Royal Navy and Royal Air Force at King's Park which started yesterday and will continue this morning Navy were all out for 94 runs. Air Force have lost four wickets for 47 runs.

A number of friendly and intra club games were played yesterday and during the holidays. On Boxing day, the local staff of the Electric Co. beat the European Staff in a close game by four runs.

FIRST INNINGS

H.K.C.C.

J.E. Richardson, not out	113
L.F. Stokes, c. Drew, b. Stepito	5
L.D. Kilbee, lb.w., b. Stepito	50
M.M. Little, b. Stepito	24
H. Owen-Hughes, b. Stepito	4
T.A. Pearce, lb.w., b. Stepito	0
A.P. Raynor, b. Stepito	0
O.J. Kerr, lb.w., b. Broadley	7
R.W. Franklin, lb.w., b. Hope	1
H.N. Bardell, b. Darwin	1
F. Howarth, b. Darwin	1
Extras	11
Total	220

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W
Darwin	11	3	48	2
Stepito	14	2	43	6
Roberts	4	0	23	0
Broadley	14	2	70	1
Hope	5.1	0	25	1

ARMY

Maj. Murray Brown, c. Little, b. Howarth	5
Capt. Drew, lb.w., b. Howarth	2
Major Haig, c. Franklin, b. Howarth	10
Major Hope, b. Howarth	47
Lt. Broadley, c. & b. Howarth	17
Capt. Darwin, c. Howarth, b. Owen-Hughes	1
Maj. Blaxland, c. Bardell, b. Owen-Hughes	0
Lt. Forrow, c. Kilbee, b. Howarth	1
A.P. Raynor, not out	21
Maj. Slane, b. Howarth	3
Lt. Stepito, lb.w., b. Owen-Hughes	2
Extras	19
Total	127

SECOND INNINGS

H.K.C.C.

J.E. Richardson, not out	50
L.F. Stokes, not out	84
Extras	7
Total	141

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W
Darwin	5	0	29	—
Stepito	4	0	43	—
Broadley	3	0	21	—
Hope	3	0	41	—

ARMY

Capt. Darwin, b. Owen-Hughes	7
Capt. Roberts, c. Stokes, b. Owen-Hughes	5
Maj. Haig, c. Owen-Hughes, b. Howarth	13
Lt. Drew, b. Howarth	1
Maj. Murray Brown, b. Howarth	1
Maj. Hope, b. Owen-Hughes	9
Lt. Broadley, b. Howarth	3

ROYAL NAVY

Wm. Heggie, c. Baxter, b. Gambrill	21
Lt. Cole, c. Baxter, b. Gambrill	14
Lt. Shaw, c. Gall, b. Ratledge	9
Lt. Browne, b. Ratledge	0
Lt. Cdr. Cadlow, c. Baxter, b. Hodgson	9
C.P.O. White, lb.w., b. Hodgson	15
Lt. Starin, b. Gambrill	1
S.H.A. Allec, c. Pullen, b. Skinner	1
Sub. Lt. Gethinger, b. Gambrill	1
Mr. Matthews, not out	0
C.P.O. Brown, b. Hodgson	3
Extras	16
Total	94

R.N. — R.A.F.

At the end of the first day play in the Quadrangular Tournament cricket game between Royal Navy and Royal Air Force played at King's Park the Air Force are 47 runs behind with the loss of four wickets. The game was featured by the general good fielding of both sides. Play continues this morning at 11 a.m.

ROYAL NAVY

Wm. Heggie, c. Baxter, b. Gambrill	21
Lt. Cole, c. Baxter, b. Gambrill	14
Lt. Shaw, c. Gall, b. Ratledge	9
Lt. Browne, b. Ratledge	0
Lt. Cdr. Cadlow, c. Baxter, b. Hodgson	9
C.P.O. White, lb.w., b. Hodgson	15
Lt. Starin, b. Gambrill	1
S.H.A. Allec, c. Pullen, b. Skinner	1
Sub. Lt. Gethinger, b. Gambrill	1
Mr. Matthews, not out	0
C.P.O. Brown, b. Hodgson	3
Extras	16
Total	94

Fall of wickets—1 for 41, 2 for 42, 3 for 44, 4 for 52, 5 for 57, 6 for 74, 7 for 86, 8 for 92, 9 for 94.

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W
Gambrill	11	2	29	4
Hodgson	11	2	25	1
Ratledge	7	0	8	2
Skinner	2	0	4	1

R.A.F.

F/O. Steel, c. Cole, b. Heggie	14
Cpl. Skinner, c. Shaw, b. Heggie	6
Sgt. Baxter, not out	14
Cpl. Cooper, b. Gethinger	5
A.C. Parker, c. & b. Gethinger	1
Squadron Leader Gall not out	0
Extras	12
Total (4 wks.)	47

Fall of wickets—1 for 27, 2 for 36, 3 for 37, 4 for 47.

RECREIO — C.C.C.

At Happy Valley, yesterday, Club de Recreio beat Craigengower Cricket Club in a friendly cricket game by 142 runs. Recreio knocked up 196 runs in an hour and a half. At their turn out bat Craigengower could do nothing against the Recreio bowling and were all out for 54.

C.C.C.

G. Hong Choy, b. A.P. Pereira	11
A.H. Iemil, b. L.G. Gosano	18
E.A. Lee, b. A.P. Pereira	3
H.P. Lim, c. P.M.N. da Silva, b. L.G. Gosano	0
S. Ramchand, lb.w., G.N. Gosano	4
R.R. France, b. L.G. Gosano	4
C.W. Lam, c. Ricci Pereira, b. G.N. Gosano	4
T.E. Yoh, c. & b. L.G. Gosano	1
P.J. Billimoria, not out	0
L. Wong, run out	2
I.M. Omar, b. L.G. Gosano	0
Extras	9
Total	54

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W
A.P. Pereira	8	5	6	2
G.N. Gosano	9	2	26	2
L.G. Gosano	6	2	13	5

RECREIO

L.M. Gosano, c. France, b. H.P. Lim	51
L.G. Gosano, retired	50
A.P. Pereira, b. Billimoria	54
P.M.N. da Silva Jr., not out	8
H.A. Barros, not out	16
Extras	17
Total	196

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W
Billimoria	11	1	31	1
Lam	3	0	23	0
Ramchand	12	1	16	0
Hong Choy	2	0	10	0
France	4	0	20	0
Lim	1	0	9	1
Lee	1	0	10	0

Peiping Legation Handed Over

Peiping, Dec. 27. At a simple ceremony yesterday afternoon, Peiping's "Legation Quarters" were formally returned to China with the signing of the necessary documents by the Consul General of the United States, Britain, France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Mayor Ho Sze Yuan signed on behalf of China. Established after the Boxer rebellion of 1900, the Legation Quarter, consisting of a few square miles of land, originally housed the legations of eight foreign powers—Britain, the United States, France, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Germany and Japan. One of the clauses of the agreement setting up this area, the quarter was described as "one specially reserved for their use and placed under their exclusive control, in which Chinese shall not have the right to reside and which may be made defensible."—Reuter.

SERGEANT REMANDED ON \$1000 BAIL

The traffic accident near the 11-milestone about 5.30 p.m. on Christmas Day, in which a car driven by Mr. R.E.H. Nelson of 100 Waterloo Road and a military ambulance were involved, was recalled before Mr. W.A. Blair-Kerr at Kowloon yesterday when Sgt. John Charles Kent (23) of 983 Coy R.A.S.C. was charged with driving in a dangerous manner. As Mr. Nelson was still in Kowloon Hospital, suffering from concussion and a broken leg, Sub-Inspector F. Roberts applied for a week's formal remand. Bail of \$1,000 was granted by the Magistrate.

A concert of recorded music will be presented at Talbot House, (The H), 50, Macdonnell Road, Hong Kong this evening commencing at eight thirty. By request, the programme will consist of works by Beethoven and will include: Overture "Leonora No. 3"; Trio No. 7 in B Flat major—The Archduke; Sonata in C Minor—The Pathétique; Symphony No. 6 in F—The Pastoral.

MORATORIUM EXEMPTIONS

Shares of a further number of Hong Kong companies have been exempted from the restrictions of the Moratorium, according to yesterday's Gazette. The Companies are:—Cambay Prince Steamship Co., Ltd., China Shipping Co. Ltd., Eastmount Limited, Hong Kong Airways, Ltd., Hong Kong & China Property Company Limited, Hong Kong Clays & Kaolin Company Limited, Hong Kong & Far East Investment Company, Ltd., Jardine Alcock Maintenance Co. Ltd., Jardine, Matheson & Co. Limited, Jardine, Matheson & Co. (Taiwan) Ltd., Lasala Investments, Limited, John Manners & Company Limited, John Manners & Co., (Shanghai) Limited, Mount Trading Co. Ltd., Rawang Mining Co. (Hong Kong) Ltd., Samarinda Coal & Trading Co. Ltd., Sammat Limited, (In liquidation), Sincere Co. (Perfumery Manufacturers) Limited, H. Skott & Co. Ltd., Tait and Co. Limited and Textile Machinery Agencies, Limited.

REMANDED

Richard Santos, a member of the Emergency Unit, was charged before Mr. F.X. d'Almeida yesterday with dangerous driving and driving a lorry without permission. He was remanded one week on bail of \$5,000.

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"OZARDA"	Bombay	7th Jan.
"TREVETHOE"	U.K. via Straits	18th Jan.
"ORMARA"	Shanghai	18th Jan.
"EMPIRE BRENT"	U.K.	24th Jan.
"TREVAYLOR"	U.K. via Straits	15th Feb.
"DEVONSHIRE"	U.K. via Straits	16th Feb.
"CANTON"	U.K. via Straits	24th Feb.
"TREVAYLOR"	Shanghai	24th Feb.
"DILWARA"	U.K.	27th Feb.

SAILINGS

SHIP	TO	SAILING
"TREVAYLOR"	Genda, London Amsterdam via Straits & Colombo	28th Dec.
"LANCASHIRE"	Kure	31st Dec.
"TREVETHOE"	Shanghai	17th Jan.
"ORMARA"	Amoy	17th Jan.
"EMPIRE BRENT"	Shanghai	25th Jan.
"DEVONSHIRE"	Kure	15th Feb.
"TREVAYLOR"	Shanghai	15th Feb.
"CANTON"	U.K. via Straits	23rd Feb.
"TREVAYLOR"	U.K. via Straits & Continent	24th Feb.

British

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SAILINGS

SHIP	TO	SAILING
"SANGOLA"	Amoy & Shanghai	2nd Jan.
"SANGOLA"	Amoy & Rangoon	10th Jan.
"SANGOLA"	Calcutta via Straits	10th Jan.

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28th Dec.

"TJITJALENGKA" Due from Sailing for
Macassar and Batavia, Semarang,
Java ports Macassar &
30th Dec. Soerabaya
5th Jan.

ORIENT-JAVA-AFRICA LINE
SOUTH-ATLANTIC LINE
Due from Loading for
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South Africa Mauritius,
4th Feb. 1948 Laurence,
Marques, Beira,
Durban, East London,
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Mosselbay, Capetown,
Buenos Aires, Montevideo,
Santos, Rio de Janeiro,
14th Feb.

Transshipment cargo on through bill of lading accepted for
Dar-Es-Salaam, Mombasa & Zanzibar.

RUYS South America South Africa
South Africa 29th Jan. 1948. 10th March 1948

"STRAAT SOENDA" South America, Shanghai, Yokohama,
South Africa 25th Jan. 1948. 27th Jan.

DELI-STRAITS-CHINA LINE
Due from Sailing for
"VAN HEUTSZ" Belawan Deli, Singapore, Penang &
Penang, Singapore 17th Jan. 1948. 27th Jan. 1948.

"HEINRICH JESSEN" Swatow & Amoy Singapore, Penang &
8th Jan. 1948. 9th Jan. 1948.

HOLLAND-EAST ASIA LINE
Agents "LEOPOLDSKERK" Due from Loading for
Europe, first week of Jan. 1948. Port Said/Haifa/
Sailing for Genoa/Marseilles/
Shanghai & Antwerp/Rotterdam/
Japan Amsterdam/Hamburg/
Copenhagen/Göteborg/
Orlo, beginning of February 1948.

"MOLENKERK" Due from Loading for
Europe, on or about 16th Jan. Port Said/Haifa/
Sailing for Genoa/Marseilles/
Shanghai & Antwerp/Rotterdam/
& Japan Amsterdam/Hamburg/
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Middle of Feb.

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Colombo/P. Said/Haifa/Antwerp/Rotterdam/
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Los Angeles	Late Jan.	m.v. "DONA ANICETA"

From	Date	Vessel
Pacific Coast	1st Jan.	m.v. "MANGALORE"
Atlantic Coast	20th Jan.	m.v. "ANDAMAN"
Los Angeles	Late Jan.	s.s. "DONA AURORA"

For	Date	Vessel
San Francisco & Los Angeles	24th Jan.	m.v. "ANDAMAN"
Atlantic Coast	Late Jan.	s.s. "DONA AURORA"

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New Order To All Banks

Shanghai, Dec. 27.
The Shanghai Finance Control Bureau in concert with a police move to check unregistered firms and in a further effort to weed out establishments without definite lines of business, has ordered all banks here to report full details of all users of their cheque books and cases of overdrawn and dishonoured cheques.

Increase In China Exports

SHANGHAI, DEC. 27.
THE CHINESE MARITIME CUSTOMS DISCLOSED TODAY THAT CHINA'S EXPORTS INCREASED 80 PER CENT IN OCTOBER COMPARED WITH SEPTEMBER—CN\$530,000,000,000 COMPARED WITH CN\$286,000,000,000 IN SEPTEMBER.

Imports in October recorded a high of CN\$1,746,000,000,000 compared with the September figure of CN\$1,440,000,000,000. Export gains were registered in animals, animal products, fruits, sugar, beans, tea, vegetables, timber, textile fabrics, yarns, piece-goods and chemicals.

The United States led the list of exporting countries with CN\$907,000,000,000 with India and Britain following with CN\$248,000,000,000 and CN\$74,000,000,000 respectively.

Hong Kong led the countries receiving Chinese goods with a total of CN\$329,000,000,000, the United States CN\$253,000,000,000, Britain CN\$24.9 billion.

However, it was pointed out that between September and October the Chinese currency depreciated by some 22 per cent.—United Press.

Officials of the bureau stated that negligence on the part of the banks to register the genuine names, addresses and occupations of all users of their cheque books, has given rise to difficulties in the investigation of illegal business undertakings.

The deadline has been set for Dec. 31 for all banks to record the full details of their cheque book users and other clients dealing with the banks.

Failing to comply with this order banks will be held responsible for illegal business undertakings discovered by the police. The bureau also notified all banks to submit full details of dishonoured cheques in specially prepared forms as prescribed by the Ministry of Finance.

Drastic Plan

The bureau is said to have worked out a drastic programme for the control of local finance including the activities of various Government banks and organs. The bureau's first action after its inception two weeks ago was the suspension of exchange shops and banks which are not members of the Shanghai bankers' clearing house.

Starting next week the bureau will investigate all account books of banks in conjunction with the police, it was further understood.—Reuter.

N.Y. Stock Market

New York, Dec. 27.
The stock market on Friday suffered its sharpest average drop since early this month although dealings were relatively slow as a record snowfall kept many customers away. Selling generally was attributed to the idea that the list was in line with technical corrections.

Losses of fractions to a point or more predominated at the close. Transfers were 940,000 shares—smallest for a full session since Dec. 2.

Among the few gainers were Douglas Aircraft, American Woolen, Dome Mines, Woolworth.

Laggards included Santa Fe, Union Pacific, Pacific Western Oil, Caterpillar Tractor, Allied Chemical.

—Dow Jones Averages: Stocks 64.37, 20 Industrials 17.28, 15 Rails 51.42, 10 Utilities 32.21.

Closing quotations:—Adams Express 17 1/2, Alaska Juneau 3 3/4, American Gas 7 1/2, American Smelting 5 1/4, American Telephone 10 1/4, American Tobacco 6 1/4, American Waterworks 10 1/4, Ansoconda Copper 47 1/2, Aviation Corp. 4 1/2, Baldwin Locomotive 14 1/2, Barnhill 3 1/2, Bechtel 29 1/2, Bethlehem Steel 10 1/2, Boeing Aircraft 2 1/2, Borden Co. 40 1/4, Canadian Pacific 11 1/2, J.L. Case 47 1/2, Chrysler 32 1/2, Columbia 2 1/2, Commercial Union 21 1/2, Corn Products 6 1/2, Dupont 18 1/2, Eastman Kodak 44 1/2, Electric Light & Power 18, General Electric 34 1/2, General Motors 6 1/2, Goodrich 30 1/2, Goodyear 48 1/2, International Harvester 11 1/2, Homestake Mining 28 1/2, International Paper 14 1/2, International Tel. & Tel. 12 1/2, Johns-Manville 40 1/2, Kennecott Copper 47 1/2, Montgomery Ward 14, National Builders 20 1/2, National Lead 34 1/2, New York Central 14 1/2, Packard Motors 4 1/2, Pan American Airways 8 1/2, Pennsylvania RR 17 1/2, Radio Corp. 4 1/2, Real Bilt 12 1/2, Republic Steel 24 1/2, Reynolds Tobacco 20 1/2, Schenley 31 1/2, Sears Roebuck 20 1/2, Shell Oil 35 1/2, Socoy Vacuum 17 1/2, Southern Pacific 49 1/2, Standard Brands 25 1/2, Standard Oil of Cal. 8 1/2, Standard Oil of N.Y. 7 1/2, Standard Oil of Ind. 7 1/2, Union Carbide 10 1/2, US Rubber 4 1/2, US Steel 7 1/2, US Lines 30 1/2, Westinghouse 30 1/2, Young & Rubicam 20 1/2, Gen. Pub. Utilities 13 1/2.—Associated Press.

Money Market

Gold continued its upsurge after the Christmas holiday recess, and yesterday made a spectacular 17-point spurt within the space of two hours.

Opening at \$292 a tael the market momentarily ended off to \$288.75 before it started on a non-stop climb to \$305.50, it eased off slightly to \$304 at the close.

The market was entirely dominated by bulls. Plastics opened at \$11.00 a 100, eased off to \$11.70 and rallied to \$11.87 1/2 at the close.

Chinese National Currency futures opened at 32 1/2 cts. and closed at 32 1/2 cts. for CN\$10,000. Spot was unchanged the whole day at 40 cts.

Ticals were unchanged at \$28.50 a 100. N.E.I. Guilders appreciated to \$4.97. Sterling eased off to \$13.25. Australian pounds were again unchanged at \$12.51.

BOMBAY SILVER & GOLD

Bombay Dec. 26.
Silver, Ready, per 100 tolas 163 Rupees; Forward 167 Rupees, 02 Annas; Measur (unofficial) 163 Rupees, 04 Annas.
Gold, delivered, per tola 104 Rupees, 12 Annas; Forward 104 Rupees, 06 Annas; Sovereign unquoted.—Reuter.

PACIFIC ORIENT EXPRESS LINE

M.V. "VITO"

LOADING HONGKONG ABOUT 21st DECEMBER FOR PACIFIC COAST PORTS VIA SHANGHAI, TAKUBAR & PHILIPPINES.

Sailing from SHANGHAI, HONGKONG, MANILA Direct to SAN FRANCISCO and PACIFIC COAST PORTS

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M.V. "VILJA" Mid January
M.V. "VINGNES" Mid February
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